

Nurse Licensure Compact Update

Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC)

The mutual recognition model of nurse licensure allows a nurse to have one license (in his or her state of residency) and to practice in other states (both physically and electronically), subject to each state's practice laws and regulations. Under mutual recognition, a nurse may practice across state lines unless otherwise restricted. In order to achieve mutual recognition, each state must enact legislation or regulation authorizing the Nurse Licensure Compact. States entering the compact also adopt administrative rules and regulations for implementation of the compact. Once the compact is enacted, each compact state designates a Nurse Licensure Compact Administrator to facilitate the exchange of information between the states relating to compact nurse licensure and regulation. On January 10, 2000, the Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators (NLCA) were organized to protect the public's health and safety by promoting compliance with the laws governing the practice of nursing in each party state through the mutual recognition of party state licenses. The Executive Director of the Texas Board of Nursing serves as the Compact Administrator for Texas.

Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact:

The new "Enhanced" NLC adopted by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Delegate Assembly in May 2015 has been enacted in 26 states: Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming joined the enhanced NLC in 2016-2017. The eNLC will go into effect on January 19, 2018. See Board item 7.14 for further information on implementation of the new compact.

<https://www.nursecompact.com/>

The Interstate Commission of Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators (ICNLCA) is the governing body of the eNLC. On the implementation date, nurses with eNLC multistate licenses may begin practicing in eNLC states. In NLC states with enacted eNLC legislation, nurses who hold multistate licenses will be grandfathered into the eNLC and will be able to practice in other eNLC states on the implementation date. Four states in the current NLC have not yet passed the eNLC: Colorado, New Mexico, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin.

<https://www.ncsbn.org/11281.htm>

www.nursecompact.org

NCSBN and the eNLC member states produced two new videos intended to help nurses, their employers and the general public gain a clear understanding of benefits and requirements for a multistate license and steps needed to prepare for eNLC implementation. One video was produced for nurses in states that were part of the original compact and the other video was created for nurses in states new to the compact. <https://www.ncsbn.org/11325.htm>

Letters will go out this month to nurses, educators and employers to notify them of the implementation of the eNLC.

APRN Compact:

Three states have passed and enacted the APRN Compact — Idaho, North Dakota, and Wyoming.

www.aprncompact.com

Other Healthcare Licensee Compacts in Development

The National Association of State EMS Officials has developed an interstate Compact "to solve the problem associated with day-to-day emergency deployment of EMS personnel across state boundaries." This Compact was finalized in August 2014 and 11 states including Texas have passed the Compact into law.

<https://www.nremt.org/rwd/public/document/replica>

The Federation of State Board of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) Interstate Compact has been enacted by 13 states. The Texas Sunset Commission recommended this Compact be adopted by Texas in 2017 and was incorporated into their Sunset bill. The bill passed and was signed into law by Governor Abbott on June 9, 2017.

<https://www.fsbpt.org/FreeResources/PhysicalTherapyLicensureCompact.aspx>

The Interstate Compact for Physician Licensure has been adopted by 18 states. It has been recommended by the Texas Sunset Commission and incorporated into their Sunset bill. The TMB Sunset bill did not pass but will be considered by the Texas Legislature in Special Session in July 2017.

<https://imlcc.org/>

The Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards has developed an Interjurisdictional Telepsychology Compact and 3 states have adopted the Compact thus far. This Compact was recommended by the Texas Sunset Commission and was incorporated into their Sunset bill. However, the Psychology Board Sunset bill did not pass but will be considered by the Texas Legislature in Special Session in July 2017.

<https://asppb.site-ym.com/mpage/legislative>

NLCA Meetings

The Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators (NLCA) and the NLCA Executive Committee (NLCA EXEC) meet regularly via teleconference and face to face at least twice a year. The Interstate Commission on Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators (ICNLCA) formed officially in August 2017. The most recent face to face meetings of the both the NLCA and ICNLCA took place on August 15, 2017 in Chicago.

Participating States in the Current NLC

The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) has now been implemented in 25 states: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Texas Compact Statute and Rules

The Texas NLC Statute can be found at:

http://www.bon.texas.gov/laws_and_rules_nursing_practice_act_2013.asp#Sec.304.001

The Texas Administrative Rules for the Compact can be found at this page by clicking on BON Rules and Regulations and navigating to Chapter 220.

http://www.bon.texas.gov/pdfs/law_rules_pdfs/rules_regulations_pdfs/bon_rr_Oct2016.pdf