

Nurse Licensure Compact Update

36 States and 1 Territory Enact the Nurse Licensure Compact: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming have enacted the revised Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). Alabama, Indiana and New Jersey passed the Compact in 2019. Alabama implemented on January 1, 2020, New Jersey partially implemented on March 24, 2020 and Indiana implemented on July 1, 2020. New Jersey plans a full implementation in late 2021. On March 5, 2021, Guam became the first US Territory to enact the Nurse Licensure Compact. Guam's entry into the NLC will enable nurses holding an active, unencumbered multistate license to practice in Guam to assist with the nursing shortage. Residents of Guam will not be able to obtain a multistate license until the NLC is fully implemented in 2022. Vermont passed the NLC most recently (June 2021) and the law will be implemented in Vermont on February 1, 2022. Pennsylvania chambers have passed the NLC and sent the bill to the Governor's desk for signature. <https://www.ncsbn.org/nurse-licensure-compact.htm>

Massachusetts Health Policy Commission Board Recommends Massachusetts Join the NLC: The Massachusetts Health Policy Commission board has released a report on the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) that recommends that Massachusetts join the NLC, citing the benefits for oversight of the nursing practice, the enhanced ability of Massachusetts providers to prepare during emergencies and periods of staffing challenges, and greater facilitation of telehealth. One of the key findings of the report stated, "The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of and potential for telehealth and demonstrated the need to remove barriers to cross-state practice in order to strengthen the ability of the health care system to adapt care delivery modes and respond to needs more flexibly in a post-COVID-19 world." **(See Attachment A)**

Nurse Licensure Compact Annual Report Now Available: The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) Annual Report for fiscal year 2020 (FY2020), the period from Oct. 1, 2019 to Sept. 30, 2020, is now available on NCSBN's website. It provides a snapshot of recent events and accomplishments, including strategic plan progress, an update on legislation and a description of NLC resources. <https://www.ncsbn.org/15369.htm>

The past year has been filled with unexpected challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. More than ever before, these challenges have highlighted the importance of the NLC as the solution for modernizing licensure of nurses. The NLC allows for greater nurse mobility, public protection and access to care. It enables nurses to provide telehealth nursing services to patients located in other NLC states without having to obtain additional licenses.

During the pandemic, nurses from multiple states were easily able to respond and supply vital services in other NLC states. Primary care nurses, nurse case managers, transport nurses, school home health and hospice nurses, among many others, need to routinely cross state boundaries to provide the public with access to nursing services, especially in states heavily impacted by the pandemic. A multistate license facilitates this process.

New Issue of NCSBN's Compact Connection Released – an Insight into the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) and APRN Compact World: A new issue of NCSBN's *Compact Connection* provides the latest legislative updates, as well as recent and upcoming events and resources on the NLC and APRN Compact. The latest issue's legislative update features Guam becoming the first U.S. territory to enact the NLC and North Dakota becoming the first state to enact the APRN Compact. In addition, *Compact Connection* includes information on APRN Compact webinars and NLC webinars, free, educational webinars to help nurses, nurse

educators, nursing students, nurse employers and stakeholder organizations learn more about the NLC. Subscribe to *Compact Connection* by selecting “Nurse Licensure Compact.” <https://www.ncsbn.org/subscribe.htm>

The Commission of Interstate Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators

The Interstate Commission of Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators (ICNLCA) is the governing body of the eNLC. They are authorized by law to promulgate uniform rules to facilitate and coordinate implementation and administration of this Compact. They are also empowered to adopt bylaws to conduct the operations of the Commission. The Commission meets face to face preceding the NCSBN Annual meeting and NCSBN Midyear meeting. The Commission also meets several times a year by teleconference to conduct ongoing business. The Commission met face to face virtually on March 8, 2021.

Members of the Commission’s Executive Committee can be found at the following website.

<https://www.ncsbn.org/nurse-licensure-compact-administrators.htm>

New Rules

The Commission has adopted rules three times since implementation of the NLC. The third set of proposed rules were considered and approved by the Commission at the August 2020 virtual meeting. These proposed rules are effective Jan 1, 2021. These rules include Rule 408 (Federal Criminal Records), Rule 409 (Active Duty Military Personnel or Their Spouses) and Rule 502 (Dispute Resolution). All Compact rules adopted by the Commission can be found at:

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

Resources

Members can familiarize themselves with the governance and processes of the NLC via a number of resources, including FAQs <https://www.ncsbn.org/13627.htm> videos <https://www.ncsbn.org/nlc-videos.htm> , Tips of the Week <https://www.ncsbn.org/13615.htm>.

Making Travel Nursing Easier with a Multistate License Video: This new video teaches travel nurses how the Nurse Licensure Compact and multistate licenses pertains to them. It provides primary state of residence requirements as well as pitfalls to avoid and other helpful information. <https://www.ncsbn.org/14979.htm>

APRN Compact

Three states passed and enacted the prior version of the APRN Compact: Idaho, North Dakota, and Wyoming. Due to lack of progress and failure to reach the critical mass needed for implementation, changes to the Model Compact legislation were proposed to the NCSBN Delegate Assembly August 12, 2020 to increase the likelihood of adoption by states. These changes were approved by the Delegate Assembly. On March 10, North Dakota became the first state to enact the new APRN Compact. Delaware adopted the APRN Compact in June 2021. A total of seven states must enact the compact for it to become effective.

An article on the recently adopted changes to the APRN Nurse Licensure Compact was published in the October 2020 issue of the Journal on Nursing Regulation, Volume 11, Issue 3. The article is entitled, *Mobility on Deck for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses* by Nicole Livanos, JD, MPP.

Texas Compact Statute

The Texas NLC Statute can be found at:

https://www.bon.texas.gov/laws_and_rules_nursing_practice_act.asp