

Nurse Licensure Compact Update

37 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, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Pennsylvania., South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming have enacted the revised Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). In 2021, Guam became the first US Territory to enact the Nurse Licensure Compact. New Jersey and Guam have partially implemented the Compact while Vermont, Pennsylvania and Ohio will delay implementation to a future date.

Status of Pending NLC States

New Jersey (34): Pending implementation in 2021, tentatively. Date TBD. Nurses holding a multistate license in other NLC states may practice in NJ. NJ residents cannot obtain a multistate license until implementation completed.

Guam (35): Pending implementation in 2022, tentatively. Nurses holding a multistate license in other NLC states may practice in Guam. Guam residents cannot obtain a multistate license until implementation is complete.

Vermont (36): Pending implementation on Feb. 1, 2022. Vermont residents will be able to apply for a multistate license as of that date. Nurses in other NLC states with a multistate license may not practice in Vermont until implementation is complete.

Pennsylvania (37): NLC enacted July 1, 2021. Implementation date is TBD. Criminal background checks must also be implemented. PA residents cannot obtain a multistate license until implementation is completed. Nurses in other NLC states with a multistate license may not practice in PA until implementation is complete.

Ohio (38): NLC enacted July 1, 2021. The implementation date is Jan. 1, 2023. Ohio residents cannot obtain a multistate license until implementation is completed. Nurses in other NLC states with a multistate license may not practice in Ohio until implementation is complete.

<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)**

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 Interstate Commission of Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators

The ICNLCA facilitates cross border nursing practice through the implementation of the nationally recognized, multistate license, the NLC. The ICNLCA enhances nurse mobility and public protection through maintaining uniform licensure standards among party state boards of nursing; promoting cooperation and collaboration between party states, facilitating the exchange of data and information between party states; and educating stakeholders. The ICNLCA is a quasi-governmental and joint public agency of the party states created and established on July 20, 2017. The Executive Committee is the seven-member elected leadership of the ICNLCA. <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