

Nurse Licensure Compact Update

37 States and 2 Territories Have Enacted 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, Virgin Islands, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming have enacted the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). In 2021, Guam and the Virgin Islands were the first US territories to enact the NLC. <https://www.ncsbn.org/nurse-licensure-compact.htm>

Status of Pending NLC Jurisdictions

Guam: 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.

Pennsylvania: 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.

Virgin Islands: NLC enacted Dec. 6, 2021. Implementation date is TBD. Criminal background checks must also be implemented. VI residents cannot obtain a multistate license until implementation is completed. Nurses in other NLC states with a multistate license may not practice in VI until implementation is complete.

NLC and APRN Compact Bills are expected to be introduced in 2023.

NCSBN's Compact Connection: *Compact Connection* includes legislative updates and 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 through 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://ncsbn.org/compacts/nurse-licensure-compact/nlc-commission.page>

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 were 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/compacts/nurse-licensure-compact/nlc-toolkit/nlc-videos.page>,

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 pertain 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. In March 2021, North Dakota became the first state to enact the new APRN Compact. Delaware adopted the APRN Compact in June 2021. Governor Spencer Cox signed the APRN Compact into law in the state of Utah on March 24, 2022. A total of seven states must enact the compact for it to become effective.

Texas Compact Statute

The Texas NLC Statute can be found at:

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