

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 law and regulation. 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.

NLCA Meeting Schedule

The Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators (NLCA) meet via teleconference once every other month and face to face twice a year. The schedule for 2007-2008 is:

Monday December 10, 2007 Conference Call 2:00PM CST

Monday February 11, 2008 Conference Call 2:00PM CST

Sunday March 2, 2008- NLCA Face to Face Meeting in Chicago (Wyndham Hotel) 3-6PM CST

Monday May 12, 2008 Conference Call 2:00PM CST

Monday July 14, 2008 Conference Call 2:00PM CST

Monday August 4- NLCA Face to Face Meeting in Nashville (Sheraton Music City Hotel) 3-6PM CST

The NLCA conference calls and the business meetings listed above are open meetings. Advance notice to the NLCA Secretariat is necessary. Please direct interested parties to e-mail the NLCA Secretariat at kgarcia@ncsbn.org; phone: 312.525.3625.

Participating States

The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) has now passed in twenty-three states: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Wisconsin. Kentucky's bill was implemented on June 1, 2007. Colorado's bill was implemented in October 2007. The 22 states which have implemented the Compact thus far are: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Wisconsin. Rhode Island adopted the Compact but will not implement until July 2008.

For future reference on the Nurse Licensure Compact, refer to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing web site at:

<https://www.ncsbn.org/156.htm>

Texas Compact Statute and Rules

The Texas NLC Statute can be found at

<http://www.bon.state.tx.us/nursinglaw/npa2.html#4-001>

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.state.tx.us/nursinglaw/rr.html>