

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.

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 last face to face meeting of the NLCA took place on August 7, 2012 in Dallas. The NLCA Executive Committee met October 20, 2012 in Washington, D.C.

APRN Compact

The Executive Officers and legal counsel of states who have passed the APRN Compact and states interested in joining the APRN Compact has been meeting since April 2012 to draft a new APRN Compact, rules and Uniform Licensure Requirements to conform to the national APRN Consensus Model

https://www.ncsbn.org/Consensus_Model_for_APRN_Regulation_July_2008.pdf

and to add enforcement and rule making provisions to strengthen the Compact. The Texas Compact Administrator met with the NLCA Executive Committee to review changes and obtain feedback on October 20, 2012. Changes suggested by the Executive Committee were incorporated. The Texas Compact Administrator and Lance Brenton met with the NCSBN APRN Advisory Committee to review changes and obtain feedback on November 29, 2013. The APRN Compact Group is awaiting their response and will respond to their feedback when received. The tentative plan is to consider adoption by the NLCA at their March meeting.

An Updated History of the APRN Compact can be found at the following link.

[https://www.ncsbn.org/APRN_Compact_hx_timeline_April_2012_\(2\).pdf](https://www.ncsbn.org/APRN_Compact_hx_timeline_April_2012_(2).pdf)

NCSBN 2011 Annual Report

The 2011 Annual Report has been published and is available at https://www.ncsbn.org/NLCA_AnnualReport_2011_web.pdf

Growth of the NLC

Nurse Licensure Compact legislation is pending this year in Georgia, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Illinois. One of the frequent objections to the Compact is absence of Criminal Background Check Requirements by some Compact states. Currently 19 of the 24

Compact states have implemented federal and state Criminal Background Checks. Adoption of CBCs is a goal for all Compact states in the Strategic Plan. Please see agenda item 1.1 which includes a resolution on criminal background checks for nurse licensees by the Council of State Governments.

The American Nurses Association has expressed concern regarding the NLC since its implementation. They have, however, reduced their original 14 points of concern regarding the Compact to 4 points. Please see attached response of the NLCA to these remaining points. https://www.ncsbn.org/4_ANA_TP_Revised_031112.pdf

Please see an article on the first decade of experience with the Compact – *Nurse Licensure Compact 2000-2010: Sharing a Decade of Realities*, by Joey Ridenour.

https://www.ncsbn.org/AZBN_Journal_NLC_edition_12_1_10.pdf

Participating States

The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) has now been implemented in 24 states: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Wisconsin.

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>