

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. She is also the APRN Member-at-Large on the NLCA Executive Committee (NLCA-EXEC).

NLCA Meetings

The Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators (NLCA) and the NLCA Executive Committee (NLCA EXEC) meet regularly via teleconference and face to face twice a year.

Pending NLC Legislation:

In 2011, there was NLC Legislative activity in six states. In Illinois, the bill was introduced and progressed through the Senate. Legislators and several NLC Administration met with the Illinois Nurses Association and the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation on June 20, 2011. The bill is expected to continue in the fall legislative session. In Minnesota, the NLC bill successfully passed both legislative bodies but was vetoed by the governor. The New York, New Jersey, Georgia and Massachusetts had little or no action taken before the legislative sessions closed.

Strategic Plan Progress Update:

1. An educational video intended to help licensees understand the NLC is in production and anticipated completion is late August 2011.
2. The Compliance Committee is on target to present a draft version of a compliance self-audit to NLCA at the August meeting.
3. An NLCA Orientation will be scheduled with the Wisconsin Board of Nursing new Compact Administrator in July 2011.
4. The Policy Committee is on target to complete review of the NLCA policy manual with proposed revisions by the August meeting.

5. The NLCA continues discussion about utilizing the Nurse Alerts feature in lieu of the Compact tab in Nursys to make important investigative and disciplinary information available to all boards of nursing.
6. The NLCA approved its FY12 budget. Budget includes an allowance for production of a series of training webinars aimed to help compact state boards of nursing understand various aspects of the NLC.

APRN Compact

On June 14, 2011, EOs of states with passed APRN Compact legislation and states interested in joining the APRN Compact met with board attorneys and NLCA Special Counsel Rick Masters to discuss various proposed provisions for the model legislation aimed at strengthening and creating efficiencies within the compact.

Secretariat Agreement

On June 13, 2011, the NLCA Executive Committee reviewed the proposed amendments to the NLCA Secretariat Agreement with NCSBN. The agreement will next be reviewed with the NLCA-NCSBN Interface Group.

Coalition:

A meeting of nursing organizations interested in promoting the Compact was held on June 7, 2011 in Chicago. The purpose of NLC Legislative Coalition was expressed as an effort to partner together the energies & strengths of key stakeholder organizations in a unified effort to advance the Nurse Licensure Compact for public safety.

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>