

Legislative Support for APRN Nurse Licensure

Compact Bill (HB 1044)

ND CENTER FOR NURSING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The North Dakota Center for Nursing, a non-profit 501c3 organization, was developed in 2011 to represent over 20,000 nurses and over 40 nursing organizations across North Dakota. The mission of the North Dakota Center for Nursing is through collaboration guide ongoing development of a well-prepared and diverse nursing workforce to meet health care needs in North Dakota through research, education, recruitment and retention, advocacy and public policy. This policy agenda has been approved by our Board of Directors and is an official policy of the North Dakota Center for Nursing.

The Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact (APRN Compact) increases access to care, protects patient safety and reduces costs while supporting state- of-the-art health care delivery. The APRN Compact allows for APRNs with 2,080 hours or more of practice to have one multistate license in their home state, with the privilege to practice in other APRN Compact party states without obtaining additional licenses.

The North Dakota Center for Nursing supports the Advanced Practice Nurse Compact Licensure Bill (HB 1044).

Benefits of the APRN Compact

Access to Care: Increases access to APRN services across the country quickly and efficiently, which is essential for the health of many rural and underserved communities.

Telehealth: Enables APRNs to practice in person or provide telehealth services to patients located across the country seamlessly and efficiently.

Disaster/Pandemic Relief: Allows APRNs to immediately cross state borders and provide vital services in the event of an emergency, without the need to wait for executive declaration.

Military Families: Allows military spouse APRNs to seamlessly continue working upon relocation and change of employment.

Online Education: Facilitates online nursing education.



Efficient: Eliminates redundant, duplicative regulatory processes and unnecessary fees.

Cost Effective: APRNs do not have to obtain additional nursing licenses, making practicing across state borders affordable and convenient. The APRN Compact also removes a burdensome expense for organizations that employ APRNs and may share the expenditure of obtaining and maintaining multiple licenses.

Facilitates Interstate Information Sharing: Grants the necessary legal authority to facilitate interstate information sharing and investigations in the event of adverse actions to ensure public protection.

Flexible Licensure: Allows APRNs to obtain or maintain a single state license if preferred.

Key Points for North Dakota's Legislative Bill

Repeal-and-replace/Revise

The APRN compact we adopted did not get enough states to become effective. In order to create licensure mobility for APRNs, we need to enact the new APRN Compact.

This compact increase transparency by ensuring every multistate licensee meets the uniform licensure requirements in article III. These requirements mirror many of those in our successfully operating NLC and represent the national standards for APRN regulation.

Effective date

This compact will become effective sooner—once 7 states have enacted the legislation, down from 10 in the previous compact. Several states have expressed interest and plan on introducing the legislation in the upcoming legislative sessions. The changes made to the new language increase the pool of states eligible and interested in enacting the law.

COVID-19

Had the APRN Compact been enacted prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, there would have been an immediately available workforce to assist in compact states. In an emergency such as a pandemic—one that is impacting the entire country, having a mobile workforce to respond to hot spots as they arise would have helped both facilities respond to patients with severe illness and also to increase the primary care workforce that we know is critical for testing and less-acute illness. For practitioners, the options for practicing via telehealth would help to keep their practices afloat all while increasing access to care for our residents and those across the country.

We can contrast this with registered and licensed practical nurses. Nurses in 34 states that are party to the NLC were able to be mobilized immediately, while APRNs who wanted to provide critical services in states other than where they are licensed had to navigate complex and patchwork regulatory structures created by statute, regulation, and the many executive orders and emergency regulations that lacked uniformity across states in both purpose and duration.

For more information about the ND APRN Nurse Licensure Compact Contact: Dr. Stacey Pfenning, Executive Director, North Dakota Board of Nursing at spfenning@ndbon.org