

PLEASE SUPPORT SB18-XXX ENHANCED NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT

Sponsors: Senator Jim Smallwood/Senator Nancy Todd and Rep. Tracy Kraft Tharp/Rep. Hugh McKean

Background: In 2006 the legislature passed SB 06-020 allowing the Colorado State Board of Nursing to enter into a multi-state nurse licensure compact. The original Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) developed by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) was an agreement between 25 states to allow a nurse with a multistate license in one compact state to practice in other NLC states. The NLC includes RN and LPN licensure only. The NLC has been operational and successful for more than 17 years.

What does SB18-xxx do?

The bill would allow Colorado nurses to maintain their multistate license and join the enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC). The eNLC operates in the same way as the current NLC in that the bill allows for registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical/vocational nurses (LPNs) to have one multistate license in their home state with the ability to practice in their home state and other eNLC states. This modern version of the original compact increases access to care, protects patient safety and reduces costs while supporting state-of-the-art health care delivery for today and in the future.

What are the benefits of the eNLC?

- Reduces regulation and costs for nurses allowing them to seamlessly practice in the other compact states without having to obtain additional licenses. The 26 current eNLC states are Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia and Wyoming.
- Enables nurses to practice in person or provide telehealth nursing services to patients located in eNLC states across the country without obtaining additional state licenses.
- Allows nurses to quickly cross state borders and provide vital services in the event of a disaster.
- Facilitates telenursing and online nursing education.
- Protects patient safety by implementing a federal criminal background check for any nurse applying for a multistate license in Colorado after July 20, 2017.

Why is it important for Colorado to join the eNLC before the January 19 implementation date?

Passing legislation authorizing Colorado to join the eNLC prior to the implementation date allows nurses an easy transition into the new eNLC. Nurses who held a multistate license on July 20, 2017 will be grandfathered into the new compact and will continue to be able to seamlessly practice in the compact states listed above without obtaining additional nursing licenses.

What happens if Colorado joins the eNLC after January 19 implementation date?

This legislation will impact nearly all of the Colorado nursing workforce – over 86,000 nurses working in Colorado have licenses subject to the current NLC. Those registered nurses and licensed practical nurses holding a multistate license in Colorado will only be able to practice in the remaining NLC states (Colorado, Wisconsin, New Mexico, and Rhode Island). In order to continue practicing in states that have transitioned to the eNLC, Colorado nurses would need to obtain separate individual state licenses in all states where they will

practice, and nurses practicing in Colorado with licenses from states that have joined the eNLC will no longer be able to practice in Colorado after January 19 without an additional license, jeopardizing access to care.

Supporters (List in Formation)

Children's Hospital Colorado

Colorado Nurses Association

Colorado Hospital Association

Fresenius Medical Care North America

Kaiser Permanente

Davita

Denver Health

Colorado Association of Nurse Anesthetists

American College of Nurse Midwives, CO Affiliate (ACNM)

The Colorado Center for Nursing Excellence

Colorado Association of School Nurses

COPIC

University of Colorado College of Nursing (CON)

Public Health Nurses Association of Colorado, PHNAC

University of Colorado

Centura Health

UCCS Bethel College of Nursing

Colorado Health Care Association