

NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT

HB 4269 ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER ROBYN GABEL

By 2025, the state is looking at a 14,395 shortfall of nurses: that's on top of the current shortage. The Nurse Licensure Compact is a modern licensure solution for today's health care. The Nurse Licensure Compact allows for nurses in participating states to have one multistate license with the ability to practice and communicate with patients or students-both physically and electronically. Telehealth has increased 38x the pre-covid baseline. Telehealth companies are forming, and nurses are being hired but none of that is happening in Illinois because we are not part of the NLC. This missed opportunity for economic growth will not return.

WHY DOES ILLINOIS NEED THE COMPACT?

- **ACCESS TO CARE:** Expands access to nursing services across the country quickly and efficiently, which is essential for the health of many rural and underserved communities.
- **TELEHEALTH:** Nurses must be licensed in all states where they practice. Nursing care takes place in the state where the *patient* is located, so telehealth nurses must be licensed in every state they call. The NLC relieves the burden and enables nurses to practice in person or provide telehealth nursing services to patients located across the country without having to obtain additional licenses. We must stop the loss of high paying nursing jobs as companies prioritize hiring in and move jobs to compact states.
- **DISASTER RELIEF:** Allows nurses to immediately cross state borders and provide vital services in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency, without the need to wait for a declaration of emergency.
- **MILITARY FAMILIES:** Allows military spouse nurses to seamlessly continue working without having to obtain a new license each time they relocate.
- **ONLINE EDUCATION:** Facilitates online nursing education by reducing educators' need for multiple licenses.
- **COST EFFECTIVE:**
 - For Nurses: Nurses do not have to obtain additional nursing licenses, making practicing across state borders affordable and convenient.
 - For Employers: The NLC also removes a burdensome expense for organizations that employ nurses and may share the expenditure of multiple licenses.
- **GREATER EFFICIENCY:** Eliminates redundancy, duplicative regulatory processes and unnecessary fees.
- **FLEXIBLE LICENSURE:** Allows nurses who are ineligible for a multistate license to still obtain a single state license based on their state's requirements and statutes.

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Illinois would join 39 jurisdictions in becoming a member of the Compact. The multistate licensure protects Illinois nurses when practicing across state lines whether in direct care or using Telehealth to offer nursing advice or education.



COMMON MISINFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPACT

- Illinois will lose the authority to set licensure standards and Rules.
 - **FALSE.** The Compact requires all states participating in the Compact to have uniform licensure requirements. Each state fully retains the authority to set its licensure standards. The tenets of the Compact requirements are attached. Illinois is compliant.
- The Compact allows unsafe nurses (“predators”) to come into Illinois to practice.
 - **FALSE.** NURSYS is a licensure and disciplinary database for all 50 states. It is 24/7 nationwide and is used to verify nurse licensure status, discipline and practice privileges. Illinois is already a member and uses NYRSYS routinely.
- The Enhanced Compact changes mandate all states participating in the Compact must require background checks linked to nurse licenses. Those nurses who were part of the original Compact and are ‘grandfathered’ into the Enhanced Compact would not have a background check and, therefore, could be ‘unsafe’.
 - **FALSE.** Background data can be found in NURSYS and employers can reject anyone grandfathered before the Enhanced Compact being in effect.
- The Compact may charge an assessment fee. Because of the number of registered nurses would cause Illinois undue burden due to the amount of the assessment.
 - **FALSE.** There *may* be an assessment due from each participating state in the Compact used by the Commission for the regulation of the Compact. The assessment is a flat fee to each state. And, there is no outlay of money by individual nurses.
- The Compact Interstate Commission will usurp Illinois in the regulation of nursing.
 - **FALSE.** The Commission, each state has a member, is to provide oversight that Compact states follow the Compact requirements and has no authority over individual nurses’ licenses.

39 NLC Jurisdictions and Status

