

# ALASKA and the NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT

By the Alaska Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing

- **41 U.S. Jurisdictions have joined the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC):** With bills to enact the NLC currently pending in another 10 U.S. jurisdictions.
- **Alaska retains state sovereignty under the NLC:** To join the NLC, all states have to adopt the same language into law which provides uniform requirements for a multistate license, stipulates that all nurses must comply with the nursing laws of the state their patient is located in at the time care is provided, and ensures each state retains its authority to create, amend, and enforce nursing laws in that state and revoke a nurse's privilege to practice in that state as needed.
- **The NLC is widely supported in Alaska:** The NLC is supported by Alaskan nurses, the Alaska Board of Nursing, Alaska's hospitals and healthcare facilities, the State of Alaska, the Alaska APRN Alliance, AARP, the Alaska Chamber of Commerce, API, AML, Alaska's nursing schools, and many more. (See AHHA's NLC flyer for a list of over 75 organizations that have voiced their support for the NLC.)
- **Allows Alaska's hospitals and healthcare facilities to fill vacancies more quickly:** Nurses holding a multistate license will no longer need to apply, pay, and wait for an Alaska specific license and therefore can begin work months sooner than they can now.
- **Nurses support Alaska joining the NLC:** According to a survey of Alaska's actively licensed nurses, conducted in 2023, 92% support Alaska joining the NLC (including 89% of nurses with primary residency in Alaska and 85 of Alaska-licensed nurses who are members of a union). Only 5% opposed, the other 3% had no opinion.
- **The NLC would help address the RN workforce shortage,** both short- and long-term:
  - AHHA reported a 23% vacancy rate for RNs in Alaska's hospitals, with a projection for 14.3% growth in RN jobs from 2020 to 2030.
  - Alaska is projected to have over 5,000 vacancies by 2030, making us the state with the worst of only seven (7) states projected to have a nursing deficit; all other states are projected to have a nursing surplus.
  - A report from the Alaska Commission on Aging states Alaska has the fastest-growing senior population in the nation and highest senior population per capita in the country.
- **The NLC saves money and helps all Alaskans:** Nursing shortages increase overall health costs by decreasing patient access to care – inflating insurance premiums and patient healthcare costs.
- **Increases flexibility of healthcare emergency preparedness infrastructure:** The NLC allows nurses to provide services quickly and easily in response to disasters such as natural disasters such as earthquakes and mass casualty events, the COVID-19 pandemic, flu pandemics, , etc.

According to the 2019 survey conducted by the Alaska Board of Nursing in partnership with NCSBN

**92% of Alaska's Nurses Support Joining the NLC**

**Critical tool in supporting healthcare innovation, rural-critical healthcare access, and education:** The NLC will allow Alaska to recruit more nurse educators and provide more access to care for Alaskans (especially those in rural areas) once nurses can provide care across state lines.

- **Ensures safe providers:** Qualifications for a multistate license are more stringent than Alaska's current requirements. Nurses with felony convictions, misdemeanor convictions related to nursing practice, discipline against their license, or who are participating in alternative to discipline programs are not eligible to obtain or retain a multistate license.