

Julie Anderson
Commissioner



Department of Commerce,
Community, and
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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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Help Alaska Join the Nurse Licensure Compact

Monday, February 15, 2021 (Juneau) – Earlier this month, Governor Mike Dunleavy introduced SB 67: Nursing: Licensure; Multistate Compact, which would allow Alaska to adopt the Multistate Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). Joining the NLC would strengthen the state’s healthcare delivery system by reducing barriers to licensure for registered and licensed practice nurses and by increasing opportunities for nurses from other states to practice in the state.

Since Governor Dunleavy last introduced this legislation in early 2020, we have faced one of the greatest public health emergencies in recent history – and our healthcare workforce was in short supply. Had the NLC been in effect last year, the cost to healthcare facilities, individual healthcare providers, and state government could have been reduced, and treatment could have been provided more quickly to the areas in greatest need.

“SB 67 is a win-win,” **said Commissioner Julie Anderson, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.** “It maintains our current licensure options, while increasing access to quality healthcare across Alaska’s communities, helping fill the hundreds of nursing vacancies across the state.”

The NLC will allow registered and practical nurses in any of the 34 participating states to practice in Alaska without having to go through a time-consuming, redundant licensing process. It would reciprocate the privilege, providing Alaska nurses with a multistate license to practice in any participating state as well. This legislation will not affect certified nurse aides, advanced practice registered nurses, or any nurse who wishes to practice under an Alaska-only nursing license.

“The compact’s requirements for multi-state licensure are rigorous, exceeding current standards under Alaska law and supporting high quality care for all Alaskans,” **said Director Sara Chambers, Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing.** “Additionally, joining the compact does not in any way dilute or detract from the Alaska Board of Nursing’s ability to oversee and enforce nursing practice in Alaska.”

This legislation is strongly supported by healthcare facilities and nurses across Alaska, as well as the U.S. Department of Defense. Whether you’re a nurse or a patient in Alaska, the NLC will benefit you. If you feel Alaska needs greater access to healthcare providers and would like to submit letters of support, please contact your local legislators, as well as the Senate Health and Social Services Committee at shss@akleg.gov to voice your support for SB 67.

For more information on the NLC, visit the Board of Nursing’s website: <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardofNursing/NurseLicensureCompact.aspx>

If you have questions about the compact or how to submit a letter of support for this legislation, please feel free to contact us.

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