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Department of Commerce,
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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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Help Alaska Join the Nurse Licensure Compact

Thursday, March 5, 2020 (Juneau) – On February 5, Governor Mike Dunleavy introduced two bills that, if passed, will allow Alaska to join the Nurse Licensure Compact (“NLC,” [HB 238](#) and [SB 179](#)). The NLC is a multi-state compact that currently includes 34 states; another 10 states have pending legislation to join. A multi-state license would give Alaska registered or practical nurses the option to practice in all NLC states without needing to obtain additional licenses.

Here are the important facts about the NLC:

- **Joining the compact will significantly improve Alaska’s healthcare emergency preparedness infrastructure.** If we are part of the compact and an emergency healthcare event occurs, multistate license holders can come up from any of the compact states and begin working in Alaska the moment their feet touch the ground. Currently, nurses not licensed in Alaska must submit applications for licensure and wait for their documentation to be processed.
- **The Board of Nursing conducted a survey of all Alaska-licensed nurses at the end of 2019. The survey received over 3,500 responses, with a 92% approval rate for joining the compact.** Over half of the survey responses were received from Alaskan residents, with over 1,201 of those responses from individuals who only hold licensure in Alaska and do not currently practice in any other states. **Of Alaska resident nurses, 87% would like Alaska to become part of the NLC.**
- **The qualifications to apply for a multi-state license are higher than Alaska’s current standards.** This means there is no concern that “bad” nurses could come up to Alaska through the compact or that the compact will lower standards for nurses.
- **The Alaska Board of Nursing will continue to hold authority over nursing practice in Alaska,** regardless of where the nurse is from or what type of license they hold. If a multi-state licensee commits a violation in Alaska, the Board of Nursing will have full authority to investigate the claim, to no longer allow that nurse to practice in Alaska, and will work with the nurse’s home state discipline the license.

Whether you’re a nurse or a patient in Alaska, the Nurse Licensure Compact 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 and House Health and Social Services Committees at shss@akleg.gov and hhss@akleg.gov to voice your support for HB 238 and SB 179.

If you have questions about the compact, please feel free to contact us.

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