

A lack of occupational licensure reciprocity is a barrier for individuals seeking to move across state lines. Researchers at the University of Minnesota found that the interstate migration rate for individuals in occupations with state-specific licensing exam requirements is 36% lower relative to those in non-licensed occupations.² In other words, facilitating the use of occupational licenses across states improves occupational and economic mobility. It is important to note that the Compact specifically “preserves the regulatory authority of states to protect public health and safety through the current system of state licensure.”

Under the bill, residents of Nursing Licensure Compact (NLC) states would have one multistate license with the ability to practice in all compact states. To ensure that any misconduct that occurs in one state is reported to other states, NLC states are required to promptly report any adverse action taken on a nurse, any information gathered during an investigation on a complaint against a nurse, and any notification of a nurse that has been enrolled in an alternative to discipline program to a coordinated licensure information system accessible to all states. Additionally, all states that participate in the NLC conduct federal background checks to determine eligibility for a multistate license. If a nurse is not eligible for a multi-state license, the state board may still grant a license specific to that individual state.

The NLC has been in operation for over 18 years and has saved many Licensed Practical Nurses and Registered Nurses across the country a significant amount of money and time—with particular savings for nurses that work in telehealth or near state borders. The compact saves these healthcare workers important time and money that otherwise would be spent obtaining state-by-state licenses.

This legislation expands economic opportunity for Ohio’s nurses as well as enables nurses from other states to serve in Ohio. Finally, it is important to note that the language in this bill is drafted to correspond exactly with legislation adopted in the other states and that changes to the language could result in the Ohio being unable

² <https://www.minneapolisfed.org/research/sr/sr561.pdf>

to join the compact. Therefore, if this bill is to pass, it is imperative that it do so without amendment.

If this bill seems familiar – it certainly is following a bipartisan trend in Ohio of facilitating occupational licensure mobility:

- **SB 258 The Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT) –**
 - passed Senate Health Committee on 5/20/2020 unanimously
 - passed Ohio Senate on 5/20/2020 unanimously.
 - **15 member states**³

- **SB 272 Physical Therapy Licensure Compact –**
 - passed Senate Health Committee on 6/9/2020 unanimously
 - passed Ohio Senate on 6/10/2020 unanimously
 - **28 member states**⁴

The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) currently has 34 member states.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

³ <https://psypact.org/page/psypactmap>

⁴ <http://ptcompact.org/ptc-states>