

Kristina Roegner
State Senator
27th Senate District



Sponsor Testimony

Senate Bill 3

Ohio House Health Committee

April 20, 2021

Chair Lipps, Vice-Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and Members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on S.B. 3, which upon enactment would join Ohio to the national “Nurse Licensure Compact”. This bill is a reintroduction of S.B. 341 of the 133rd General Assembly, which passed the Senate late last year but did not have sufficient time to be considered by the House. The purpose of the compact and reason to enact this legislation is stated succinctly on the NLC website: “The NLC increases access to care while maintaining public protection at the state level. Under the NLC, nurses can practice in other NLC states, without having to obtain additional licenses.”¹

Currently thirty-four states have already enacted the Nurse Licensure Compact; thirty-three of those have fully implemented the Compact. (New Jersey has partially implemented it). Additionally, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, California, Alaska, Minnesota, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and now Ohio all have legislation pending; bringing the total to forty-seven states and two territories that have either implemented or are currently considering such legislation.

¹ <https://www.ncsbn.org/nurse-licensure-compact.htm>

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. Therefore, any changes to the text of the bill must be first approved by the National Nurse Licensure Compact in order to avoid jeopardizing Ohio’s eligibility to participate in the compact after passing the bill.

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

- **SB 2 The Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT) –**
 - Reintroduction of SB258 from the 133rd
 - Passed House and Senate Committees, as well as both Chambers unanimously
 - **15 member states, 16 once Ohio joins fully (sub-bill passed House 3/25, Senate must concur)** ³

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

- **SB 5 Physical Therapy Licensure Compact –**
 - Reintroduction of SB272 from the 133rd
 - Passed Senate 32-0 and House 96-1, effective 6/30
 - **31 member states, with legislation pending in 8 states and counting.** ⁴

- **SB 6 Interstate Medical Licensure Compact –**
 - Reintroduction of SB364 from the 133rd
 - Passed Senate Health 6-1 on 3/17
 - **30 member states plus Guam, with legislation pending in 8 states and counting (including Ohio)** ⁵

- **SB 7 Occupational Therapy Compact –**
 - Not yet active, language approved Fall 2020
 - Passed Senate 33-0 and House 95-2, effective 6/30
 - **3 member states Ohio, Virginia, and Maryland, legislation pending in 12 states and counting** ⁶

The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) currently has 34 member states, with legislation pending in 13 states and counting (including Ohio).

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

⁴ <http://ptcompact.org/ptc-states>

⁵ <https://www.imlcc.org/participating-states/>

⁶ <https://otcompact.org/>