

NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT (NLC)

Background on Interstate Compacts

Interstate compacts are contracts between two or more states to agree on an issue. States use compacts as a legal relationship to address an issue. **Indiana currently participates in 35 interstate compacts** (listed below). Indiana does not currently participate in any compacts around health professional licensure.

- Agreement on Detainers
- Agreement on Qualifications of Educational Personnel
- Civil Defense and Disaster Compact
- Compact for Education
- Compact on Mental Health
- Compact on Placement of Children
- Driver License Compact
- Emergency Management Assistance Compact
- Great Lakes Basin Compact
- Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact
- Health Care Compact
- Indiana–Kentucky Boundary Compact
- Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision
- Interstate Compact for Juveniles
- Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance
- Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
- Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children
- Interstate Compact to Conserve Oil and Gas
- Interstate Corrections Compact
- Interstate Earthquake Emergency Compact
- Interstate High Speed Rail Network Compact
- Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Compact
- Interstate Library Compact
- Interstate Mining Compact
- Interstate Rail Passenger Network Compact
- Midwest Interstate Low–Level Radioactive Waste Compact
- Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact
- Midwestern Higher Education Compact
- Multistate Lottery Agreement
- Nonresident Violator Compact
- Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Compact
- Surplus Lines Insurance Multi–State Compliance Compact
- Uniform Unclaimed Property Act
- Wabash Valley Compact
- Wildlife Violator Compact

What licensed occupations are included in the NLC compact?

The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) includes **registered nurses (RNs)** and **licensed practical nurses (LPNs)**. Advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) are **not** included. (Currently Indiana's APRNs are licensed as RNs. APRNs with prescriptive authority hold an additional prescriptive authority license.)

How does the Compact intersect with SCOPE OF PRACTICE?

While a nurse may hold one multi–state license that is issued by their primary state of residence, **nurses are subject to the specific practice laws of the state in which they are practicing (physically or electronically).**

What COSTS are associated with the compact?

There is a **\$6,000 annual fee** for a state to participate. No fee is imposed by the Compact to participating nurses. However, nurses continue to be subject to the licensing fees determined by the primary state of residence. (Two bills have been proposed in Indiana's 2019 legislative session for the NLC. See the bills' latest fiscal notes for up–to–date information).

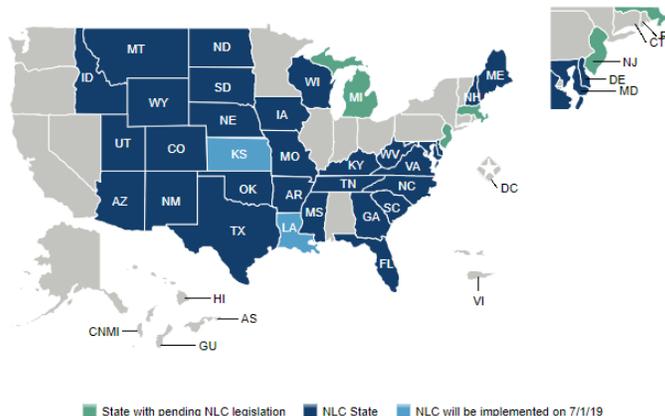
How might the compact impact the license acquisition/renewal process?

Nurses who wish to obtain a multistate license and indicate Indiana as their home state would **complete all requirements associated with license renewal in the home state and the Compact.** (A requirement for participation in the NLC is adoption of Uniform Licensure Requirements – available at: https://www.ncsbn.org/ULR_Updated_Jan_2018.pdf).

Does the Compact allow a participating state the authority to make non–substantive changes and/or end participation at a later date?

Yes, **any non–substantive change can be made through rulemaking (but cannot supercede compact language).** Compact language (in statute) cannot be altered in order for a state to continue participation. If a state wishes to end participation in the NLC, they may go through a legislative process to remove Compact statute. Compact participation allows each state one seat of representation on the NLC Commission, which has rulemaking authority in participating states.

NLC: How many states participate?





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Nursing Workforce by the Numbers



*Calculated from information provided by Indiana Professional Licensing Agency as of 11/17/17. [^]Information provided by Kentucky Board of Nursing on 1/25/19

Potential "BENEFITS" associated with participating in the NLC



License portability: Nurses receive a multistate license which allows them the privilege to practice in compact-member states with no additional license processes. (This may be of particular benefit to military families with frequent relocations.)

Telehealth: The NLC facilitates nurse participation in telehealth, as nurses can provide care across borders without having to obtain additional licenses.

Disaster Relief: Allows nurses to immediately cross state borders (into member states) to provide services in the event of an emergency.

Not prohibitive to non-compact nurses: A dual licensure pathway (both multistate and single-state) could be implemented. This would allow nurses who are ineligible for a multistate license (or do not wish to obtain a multistate license) to still obtain a single-state Indiana license.

Potential "CHALLENGES" associated with participating in the NLC



Potential loss of revenue: It is not currently known how many of Indiana's current RN licensees hold a multistate license (hosted by another state as the primary state of residence) or who would indicate another compact state as their primary state.

Workforce data & tracking: Participation would limit Indiana's ability to know who and where compact nurses are (if they indicate another state as their primary state of residence). (Single-state and multistate licensees with Indiana as their primary state of residence would still be required under IC 25-1-2-10 to provide the state with select workforce information for policy & planning purposes.) Limited supplemental data may be available through the Nursys e-Notify system (a database where employers may voluntarily upload employee information).

Compact contact information for follow-up/more specific information:

Visit the NLC website at <https://www.ncsbn.org/nurse-licensure-compact.htm> or email the National Council of State Boards of Nursing for additional information (info@ncsbn.org).

Sources: NLC overview document was presented at the Licensure Compact Learning Lab on 12/11/2018. The presentation & handout are available at: <https://scholarworks.iupui.edu/handle/1805/17977> NLC Website: <https://www.ncsbn.org/nurse-licensure-compact.htm>

This brief was prepared by the Bowen Center for Health Workforce Research & Policy to objectively inform decisionmakers on the generalities and specificities within a licensure compact, while wearing an Indiana "lens." This brief was not prepared on behalf of the NLC. Any questions on NLC may be directed to the Compact contact. Any questions on the content of the brief may be directed to the Bowen Center team (bowenctr@iu.edu).