

April 19, 2023

Memorandum in Support – A6421
Nurse Licensure Compact

American Nurses Association-New York (ANA-NY), on behalf of its members and their patients, **supports** passage of A6421 (O'Donnell), which would enact the enhanced nurse licensure compact (eNLC) in New York. ANA-NY is a professional nursing organization representing the interests of New York State's 360,000 registered nurses. ANA-NY advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing care, supporting the professional and educational advancement of nurses, and promoting the welfare of nurses to the end that all people may have better health care.

The eNLC is a form of mutual recognition in which “the licensing authorities voluntarily enter into an agreement to legally accept the policies and processes (licensure) of a licensee’s home state.” Per the eNLC, a nurse may hold only one home state license at a time but said license would be valid in any state that has joined the eNLC. The original nurse licensure compact was developed in 2000, and in 2015, the eNLC was adopted that established higher standards for the compact states including required criminal background check (state and federal) on initial licensure and restrictions from acquiring a multistate license if ever convicted of a felony.

ANA-NY recognizes that not every registered nurse has a desire or need to have a compact license. New York will still have a New York specific license even when the compact license is adopted, so all New York registered nurses will get to decide if they want to apply for a New York license or a compact license. As the New York license will be preserved, ANA-NY believes that it is time for New York to join the other 39 states and territories that have already adopted the compact and give New York registered nurses who would benefit from the advantages of a compact license the right to decide which license best fits their needs.

Per the eNLC, if a state decides to adopt the eNLC, the state must adopt the Compact template language exactly as written. There is no customization allowed. A registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN), must have a license in their “home state,” which is defined as their primary state of residence. Primary state of residence is usually defined as where a nurse has their drivers’ license and/or pays taxed. Once an RN or LPN has a compact license, they are granted permission to practice in the other 39 eNLC states. The RN or LPN that chooses a compact license will not need an additional license from another state that is in the compact to practice in that state.

It has been noted that there are some concerns with the compact license as the compact requires the registered nurse to follow the scope of practice for where their patient is located rather than for where their home state license is granted. Again though, any registered nurse choosing a compact license will be fully aware of this and will be making an informed decision and

accepting the responsibility of this when using their compact license and practicing in another state.

The other 39 states in the compact have been able to navigate and address any concerns with the eNLC and have not left the compact. This is because there are significant benefits to the profession with regards to joining the compact. Those benefits include providing nurses more flexibility in their practice, the ability to travel and work at will, expand ability to use telemedicine for the profession and save money on license applications for those nurses that change states.

For these reasons, ANA-NY **supports** the passage of A6421 (O'Donnell), which would add New York to the nurse licensure compact.