

# Public Health Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-5058

**Title:** AN ACT ADOPTING THE NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT.

**Vote Date:** 3/11/2024

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/6/2024

**File No.:** 122

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

The Public Health Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

This bill enters the State of Connecticut into the Nursing Compact with 41 other states. This bill is an attempt to address the nursing shortage in our state by allowing more nurses from out of state to work in Connecticut. The bill specifies the period of membership in the compact from October 1, 2025, to January 1, 2028. There are several conditions and requirements that a nurse must agree with to be eligible for a multi-state licensure.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

### **Ned Lamont, Governor, State of Connecticut:**

The State of Connecticut faces a shortage of both nurses and nurse educators that will impact the state for years to come. Entering the Nursing Compact will ease the difficulties encountered when working across state lines. While we saw a significant benefit from the advanced use of telehealth, restrictions encountered in licensing nurses to use telehealth became burdensome while trying to meet the needs of individuals during the pandemic. We have an increasingly mobile society and should make it possible to address shortages in qualified personnel by temporarily removing licensure restrictions or replacing them with innovative designs such as the Nursing Compact. 41 other states have adopted this concept and Connecticut should as well.

### **House Republican Caucus, Connecticut General Assembly:**

Recognizing the nursing shortage that has evolved over the last few decades and the impact of the COVID pandemic, the House Republican Caucus supports the Nursing Licensure Compact (NLC) that will enable qualified nurses to work in multiple states, including

Connecticut. The NLC will allow nurses to take advantage of their mobility and come to Connecticut through a much more streamlined regulatory process.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

##### **The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA):**

Hospitals are important contributors to the communities they serve. During the pandemic, they were innovative and steadfast in their support of the communities and their workforces. Incentive pay and partnering with colleges for continuing education opportunities demonstrate their support for a quality workforce. Joining the Compact is important in that it continues the momentum Connecticut has built to grow the workforce. CHA urges the legislature and state agencies to address any timeliness issues with background checks to ensure rapid access to nursing resources.

##### **Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS):**

CSMS supports the Nursing Licensure Compact (NLC) recognizing the need for adding nursing resources to the workforce. The Compact streamlines portability for nurses, enabling them to practice in multiple states. CSMS supports the NLC but raises concerns over the APRN Compact which impacts healthcare regulation. CSMS expressed concern that the NLC and the APRN Compact may be conflated, and this would not be in the best interests of the state.

##### **Mag Morelli, President, LeadingAge Connecticut:**

Ms. Morelli appreciates the efforts of the Governor's office in bringing this bill forward to address shortages in the nursing workforce. Ongoing work to continue the HAVEN program is an essential part of passage of this bill.

##### **Others in Support:**

Matthew Barrett, President and CEO, CAHCF-CCAL  
Ashley Waddell, Organization of Nurse Leaders  
Nora Duncan, State Director, AARP  
Mariella Larosa, Executive Director, HAVEN  
Sarah Matney, Chief Nursing Officer, CT Children's Hospital.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

##### **Ed Hawthorne, President, Connecticut AFL-CIO:**

Mr. Hawthorne believes that passage of this bill would create challenges that outweigh any potential benefits. In contrast to physicians who are still accountable to the state medical boards, the Nursing Licensure Compact (NLC) allows a single license for a nurse to work in multiple states. The nursing board is limited in its oversight of the out-of-state nurses. It is conceivable that the nursing board might not even know when an out-of-state nurse is working here. The Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing regulates the nursing practice licensure fees that go to covering that cost. With the state joining the NLC, some of those licensing fees will go to the Compact Board.

##### **Lynn Rapsilber, DNP, APRN, ANP-BC, FAANP, Northwest Nurse Practitioner Group:**

Ms. Rapsilber believes entry into the compact will remove confidentiality protections currently in effect. The potential negative impact on the HAVEN program could have a devastating

effect on the advances that have been made to date. There is also concern for the confidentiality of mental health information as a result of entering into this compact. There needs to be further discussions before this bill is passed to address the concerns and the inequities resulting from entry into the compact.

**Others in Opposition:**

Kim Sandor, MSN, RN FNP, Connecticut Nurses Association

**Reported by: Dave Rackliffe, Asst Clerk**

**Date: March 12, 2024**