

## Nurse Licensure Compact-Fact Sheet

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### What is the Nurse Licensure Compact?

It is a legal agreement with 2 or more states that allows a nurse to practice on his/her state of resident licensure. The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) is a "mutual recognition" similar to the Driver's License Compact model.

### How does a state become part of the NLC?

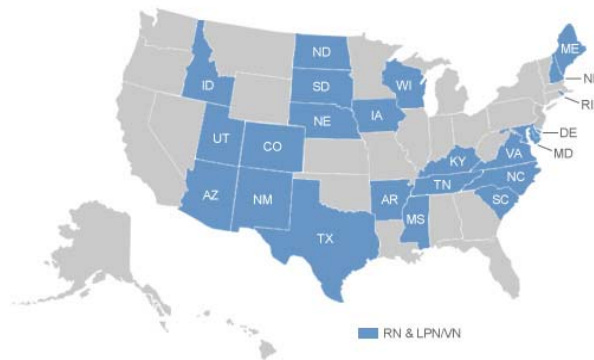
States must pass the NLC into law to become a member of the NLC.

### Who regulates nursing practice under the NLC?

The NLC does not replace the state's sovereign right to regulate nursing practice within its borders. Each state enforces its own Nurse Practice Act.

### How many states have adopted the NLC?

There are currently 24 states that are part of the NLC.



### Why isn't Minnesota part of the NLC?

- Minnesota has not passed legislation to adopt the NLC. The NLC bill has been presented before MN Legislators in 2003, 2008, 2009, and will be introduced in MN Legislative Session 2010. Many MN legislators have not heard from their *constituents* regarding the NLC so are not motivated to elevate the issue in legislative sessions. Legislators act on constituent concerns.
- MN Legislature adopted the "Border State Recognition" Law in 2003. The law mandates that the MN Board of Nursing recognize nurse licensure from WI, SD, ND and IA as long as the nurse notifies the MN Board of Nursing within 10 days of practice. This is not a reciprocal agreement as MN Border states have adopted the NLC. MN nurses who wish to have licensure in Border States must pay appropriate fees and complete licensure endorsement requirements established in those states.

### Does the NLC affect the standard of nurses coming into the state?

Nurses in all 50 states and US territories must pass the NCLEX exam, graduate from an accredited school of nursing (national accreditation) to **obtain** nurse licensure. Each state may require additional requirements to **maintain** licensures. Most states have substantially similar requirements/standards for nursing practice. *Example: If you have a friend or family member in another state, would you trust that the medical staff in that state regulates nursing in safe manner, or would you require all medical care to be done in MN?*

### Does that NLC take away from nurses' rights to form or keep a union?

The NLC does not impact the statutory authority at state or federal level for collective bargaining. The NLC does not facilitate strikebreaking. Under current law, licensure by endorsement, which allows nurses from other states to practice in MN as long as they meet application regulations set forth by MN Board of Nursing, may allow many licensures to be granted in a short period of time-without having the NLC enacted. The Compact does not replace or interfere with state labor laws.

### Will Minnesota lose licensure revenue under the NLC?

A recent, informal study was done with border states and found that the NLC would not create a loss in license revenue.

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