
ENHANCED NLC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (version 11/22/17)

(This update is revised as new information is available.)

1. What is the status of the four original NLC states (WI, CO, NM and RI) that have not enacted the enhanced NLC yet?

WI: The bill has passed. It is now only awaiting the governor to sign it into law. That may occur at any time. Thank you to all who supported this legislation.

[Senate Bill \(SB\) 417](#) and [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 500](#)

WI Press releases:

<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/70/vandermeer/media/1169/vandermeer-press-release-enhanced-nurse-licensure-compact-passage.pdf>

<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/17/marklein/media/press-releases/marklein-and-tranel-advance-enhanced-nurse-licensure-compact-legislation>

CO: enhanced NLC legislation is anticipated to be introduced when the legislative session opens on Jan 10, 2018. The bill must be enacted by Jan 19, 2018. There is significant stakeholder support for the legislation and no opposition. The legislation is in need of additional legislative co-sponsors. CO residents can send a letter to legislators at <https://nursecompact.com/take-action.htm> urging them to act quickly on the eNLC legislation when the legislative session opens on Jan 10, 2018. Once introduced, bill activity can be followed at <http://leg.colorado.gov/bills>

NM: enhanced NLC legislation will be introduced when the legislative session opens on Jan 16, 2018. The bill must be enacted by Jan 19, 2018. There is significant stakeholder support for the legislation and no opposition. Once introduced, bill activity can be followed at <https://www.nmlegis.gov/>.

NM Press releases:

<http://www.scdailypress.com/site/2017/11/04/state-scrambles-to-solve-nurse-license-problem/>

<http://www.kob.com/politics-news/enhanced-nurse-licensure-compact-new-mexico-legislature-politics/4658091/>

RI: enhanced NLC legislation is anticipated to be introduced after the legislative session opens on Jan 2, 2018. The bill must be enacted by Jan 19, 2018 in order for Rhode Island nurses to continue practicing in states that have already enacted the eNLC. A lack of support from the nurse union is anticipated. RI residents can send a letter to legislators at <https://nursecompact.com/take-action.htm> to voice their support for RI to remain a compact state through the enactment of eNLC legislation.

There is an online petition started by a nurse posted on Change.org at <https://www.change.org/p/rhode-island-board-of-nursing-keep-rhode-island-in-the-enlc-enhanced-nurse-licensure-compact>

2. Where can I find information on the status of the pending states (MA, NJ, and MI)?

MI: [HB 4938](#) was introduced Sept 13, 2017 and referred to the Committee on Health Policy.

NJ: [SB 103](#) and [AB 3917](#) were introduced in the initial year of the 2016-2017 legislative session.

MA: [SB 1162](#) and [HB 1188](#). There is a lack of support from the nurse union.

Enhanced NLC Frequently Asked Questions & Answers (Nov 20, 2017)

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. What is an alternative program?

An alternative program is a voluntary or involuntary non-disciplinary program approved by a licensing board. Eligible licensees typically have admitted to having substance use disorders, mental/physical health issues or are in need of practice remediation.

2. Where do I find the application for a multistate license? How do I get a multistate license? When can I apply?

Applications and the process to obtain multistate status will be available on the board of nursing website in compact states by Jan 19, 2018. Some states may post the application sooner. Fees will vary by state. To be eligible, an applicant must declare their primary state of residence in a compact state. You will not find an application on the NCSBN or NurseCompact.com websites.

3. Am I eligible for a multistate license? Do I meet the requirements?

We cannot confirm eligibility for licensure. The boards of nursing review applications that are submitted and can notify you of eligibility. You can review a list of the multistate license requirements at https://www.ncsbn.org/eNLC-ULRs_082917.pdf.

4. Can I get a multistate license with a felony from many years ago?

A felony conviction, unless expunged, bars an individual from a multistate license. The individual may be eligible for a single state license.

5. How do I know if I am grandfathered into the eNLC?

Grandfathering means that the individual will not need to take steps to obtain an enhanced multistate license. It will be automatic on Jan 19, 2018.

An individual eligible for grandfathering meets the following criteria:

- ✓ Is a resident of an original NLC state that has enacted the enhanced NLC.
- ✓ Held an original NLC multistate license on July 20, 2017.

- ✓ Has not had a disqualifying event since July 20, 2017, which would nullify the grandfathering.

Examples of disqualifying events include but are not limited to:

- Changing primary state of residence to another state.
- Allowing the license to lapse.
- Being convicted of any felony.
- Being convicted of a misdemeanor related to the practice of nursing whereby the conviction is determined to be a disqualifying event by the board of nursing.
- Having a license disciplined and placed probation or with any practice restrictions.
- Current enrollment in an alternative program.

6. Does the enhanced NLC include advanced practice nurses?

No, the eNLC includes LPNs/LVNs and RNs. A nurse holding an APRN license may also hold a multistate RN license in a compact state. There is an APRN Compact, which will be implemented once 10 states have enacted the legislation. Presently three states are members. More information is available at www.aprncompact.com.

7. I did not take the NCLEX. I took the exam in Puerto Rico / Canada. Can I still get the enhanced NLC license?

No, eligibility for an eNLC multistate license requires that the applicant must have passed the NCLEX RN or NCLEX LPN or the predecessor exam known as the state board test pool exam (SBTPE).

8. I did not take the NCLEX. I took the state board test pool exam many years ago. Am I eligible for an enhanced NLC multistate license?

Yes, successful passage of the state board test pool exam meets the eNLC uniform licensure requirement related to exams.

NURSES WITH PRIMARY STATE OF RESIDENCE IN WI, CO, NM or RI

1. My primary state of residence is one of the four original NLC states (WI, CO, NM and RI) that have not enacted the enhanced NLC yet. Do I need to apply for a single state license in other original NLC states that enacted the enhanced NLC, if I practice in one of them?

This response depends on whether your primary state of residence in WI, CO, NM or RI enacts the enhanced NLC by Jan 19, 2018. If it **does enact** by the deadline, then you will be in the enhanced

NLC. For example, you are a resident of CO and practice in AZ. If CO enacts the enhanced NLC then CO and AZ are in the same compact and you can practice in any enhanced NLC state. This assumes that either you were grandfathered into enhanced NLC or if you applied after July 20, 2017, you

were reviewed according to the enhanced NLC requirements and were issued the enhanced NLC multistate license.

If CO **does not enact** the enhanced NLC by Jan 19, 2018 and you practice in AZ, for example, which has enacted enhanced NLC, then you will need an AZ single state license by Jan 19, 2018. You obtain that by applying for license by endorsement with AZ Board of Nursing.

- 2. My primary state of residence is one of the four original NLC states (WI, CO, NM and RI) that have not enacted the enhanced NLC yet, but is trying. Do I need to apply for a single state license in other original NLC states that also have not enacted the enhanced NLC, for example, RI or NM, if I practice there?**

One scenario: your primary state of residence is CO and you practice in RI, for example and CO **does** enact the enhanced NLC but RI **does not**. Then you will need to apply for a RI single state license by endorsement.

If CO **does not** enact enhanced NLC by Jan 19, 2018 and you practice in NM, for example, and NM has **not** enacted enhanced NLC, then both states are still in the original NLC and you can practice in NM on your CO multistate license that is valid in NM. This will likely be for a limited amount of time because each of the original NLC states are working hard to pass the enhanced NLC.

- 3. Will there be a lapse in licensing if a nurse is endorsing from the original compact party state that is not part of the eNLC?**

If a party state in the current NLC does not enact the enhanced NLC by January 19, 2018 and you practice in AZ, for example, which has enacted enhanced NLC, then you will need an AZ single state license by January 19, 2018. You may apply for license by endorsement with the AZ Board of Nursing prior to January 19, 2018 but the license will not be in effect until January 19, 2018.

- 4. If I have an Arkansas APRN license, for example, with a WI, CO, RI, NM RN multistate license, what do I need to do to be licensed when the eNLC is implemented in January?**

If WI, CO, NM, RI **does not** enact the enhanced NLC by January 19, 2018 and you practice in AR, for example, which has enacted enhanced NLC, then you will need an AR single state license by January 19, 2018. You may apply for license by endorsement with the AR Board of Nursing.

NURSES WITH PRIMARY STATE OF RESIDENCE IN FL, GA, OK, WV, WY

- 1. My primary state of residence is one of the states (FL, GA, OK, WV, WY) that is new to the compact starting Jan 19, 2018. Am I automatically covered under a multistate license on that date?**

No, you are not automatically granted a multistate license. Each licensee in these states will need to request the enhanced NLC multistate license from the home state board of nursing. Check the board of nursing website for more details. Each state will have its own process for reviewing applicants who request MSL status. Also, each state will determine if a MSL fee will be charged as well as the amount of the fee.

Access the board of nursing website for more details. Each board will start to accept applications no later than January 19, 2018. Some states may accept applications prior to January 19, 2018.

- 2. My primary state of residence is one of the states (FL, GA, OK, WV, WY) that is new to the compact starting Jan 19, 2019. I already hold an active license in FL, for example. Is the multistate license in addition to this license?**

No, it is not. For example, a nurse's primary state of residence is FL. The nurse holds a single state FL license. The nurse submits an application (and pays any required fee) for a multistate license from the board of nursing. The board reviews the nurse's credentials and determines that the nurse meets the licensure requirements for a multistate license and issues a multistate license. The nurse then has multistate status in the enhanced NLC states. With one multistate license, the nurse can practice in FL or in any enhanced NLC state. The nurse can verify this status using the quick confirm feature at www.nursys.com. Should the board determine that the nurse in this example does not meet the requirements for a multistate license; the nurse will be notified and may retain the single state FL license.

- 3. My primary state of residence is one of the five states (FL, GA, OK, WV, and WY) that are new to the eNLC. I also have a license in one of the other eNLC states, for example, Virginia. Can I stop renewing my Virginia license after January 2018?**

First, you need to apply to obtain multistate licensure status in your primary state of residence. This is described in #1-2 of this section. Once you have been issued a multistate ~~status~~ license, then you will be informed you may hold only one multistate license from one compact state and should not renew the VA license (or a license in any enhanced NLC state) which is due after Jan 19, 2018.

- 4. When can I request a multistate license?**

Each board will start to accept applications no later than January 19, 2018. Some states may accept requests prior to January 19, 2018. You should access information on your home state board of nursing website.

RESIDENTS OF ORIGINAL NLC STATES THAT ENACTED ENHANCED NLC

1. What is the difference between the original NLC and the eNLC?

The original NLC was enacted in 1999 and has different statutory and rule requirements. Under the eNLC, enacted July 20, 2017, nurses continue to be able to provide care to patients in other eNLC states, without having to obtain additional licenses. Nurses with an original NLC multistate license will be grandfathered into the eNLC. New applicants residing in compact states will need to meet 11 uniform licensure requirements. Those who do not meet the new licensure requirements may still be eligible for a single state license.

2. My primary state of residence is in an original NLC state that joined the enhanced NLC and I hold a license in FL. After Jan 19, 2018, do I still need to renew my FL license?

Before allowing the FL license to lapse, verify that you have an enhanced multistate license using the quick confirm feature at www.nursys.com. If you do have the enhanced multistate license, then you may retain the single state license in a party state until it lapses, expires, becomes inactive or you deactivate the license.

3. My primary state of residence is a member of the original NLC and it enacted the enhanced NLC. What do I need to do to get the eNLC multistate license?

You are likely grandfathered, in which case, there is nothing you need to do to obtain the enhanced NLC multistate license. See #4 under General Questions to see if you meet the criteria. Also, be sure to review the enhanced NLC map of member states to see if the states you need authority to practice in are members of the enhanced NLC. If not, then you may need to apply for a single state license in any such state.

If you are obtaining a license for the first time in this state and it is after July 20, 2017, then it is important to know if your application was reviewed according to the original NLC requirements or the enhanced NLC requirements. You can only hold an enhanced multistate license if you met the requirements for that license.

4. My primary state of residence is an original NLC state that enacted the enhanced NLC. I also practice in one of the four original NLC states (WI, CO, NM and RI) that have not enacted the enhanced NLC yet. Do I need to apply for a single state license in (WI, CO, NM and RI) since I practice there?

The response depends on whether WI, CO, NM or RI (the state of practice) enacts the enhanced NLC by Jan 19, 2018. If it **does** enact by the deadline, then your home state and state of practice are both in the enhanced NLC. For example, you are a resident of AZ and practice in CO. If CO enacts the enhanced NLC then CO and AZ are in the same compact and you can practice in any enhanced NLC state. This assumes that either you were grandfathered into enhanced NLC or if you applied after July 20, 2017, you were reviewed according to the enhanced NLC requirements and were issued the enhanced NLC multistate license.

In this example, if the state of practice does **not** enact the enhanced NLC, then you do need to apply for a single state license in that state. Bear in mind that although the state may accept applications, it is unable to make the license effective (active) until Jan 19, 2018.

- 5. My primary state of residence is one of the original NLC states that enacted the enhanced NLC, for example, Virginia. I also have a license in one of the five states (FL, GA, OK, WV, and WY) that are new to the eNLC. Can I stop renewing my (FL, GA, OK, WV, WY) license after January 2018?**

Not immediately. First, you need ensure that you hold an enhanced NLC multistate license. You can verify this status using the quick confirm feature at www.nursys.com. If you do, then you will not need to renew, for example, a FL license (or a license in any enhanced NLC state) which is due after Jan 19, 2018.

- 6. My primary state of residence is in the original NLC and it enacted the enhanced NLC. Is there anything I need to do to be able to practice in any of the five states (FL, GA, OK, WV, and WY) that are new to the eNLC on Jan 19, 2018?**

If you hold an enhanced multistate license, verified by using the quick confirm feature of www.nursys.com, then there is nothing additional you need to do to practice in any of the new states or in any enhanced NLC state starting Jan 19, 2018.

RESIDENTS OF A NON-COMPACT STATE

- 1. My primary state of residence is a non-compact state. How do the changes impact me? What do I need to do?**

Since you are a resident of a non-compact state, you do not hold a multistate license. Therefore, you are not impacted and there is nothing you need to do.

- 2. My primary state of residence is a non-compact state and I hold a single state license in a compact state. Am I grandfathered in?**

No. As a resident of a non-compact state, you are not eligible for a multistate license. Grandfathering does not pertain to residents of a non-compact state. The license that you hold in a compact state is a single state license due to the fact you your primary state of residence is a non-compact state.

- 3. My primary state of residence is a non-compact state. Is there any way I can get a multistate license by applying in one of the enhanced NLC states?**

No. As a resident of a non-compact state, you are not eligible for a multistate license. If you apply for a license in a compact state, your eligibility is limited to a single state license due to the fact you your primary state of residence is a non-compact state.