

JAN 19 2024

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by  
3 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read  
4 as follows:

5 "CHAPTER

6 NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT

7 § -1 Name. This chapter may be cited as the Nurse  
8 Licensure Compact.

9 § -2 Terms and provisions of compact. The legislature  
10 of the State of Hawaii hereby authorizes the governor to enter  
11 into a compact on behalf of the State of Hawaii with any other  
12 state legally joining therein, in the form substantially as  
13 follows:

14 NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT

15 Article I. Findings and Declaration of Purpose

16 a. The party states find that:



- 1           1. The health and safety of the public are affected by  
2           the degree of compliance with and the effectiveness of  
3           enforcement activities related to state nurse  
4           licensure laws;
- 5           2. Violations of nurse licensure and other laws  
6           regulating the practice of nursing may result in  
7           injury or harm to the public;
- 8           3. The expanded mobility of nurses and the use of  
9           advanced communication technologies as part of our  
10          nation's health care delivery system require greater  
11          coordination and cooperation among states in the areas  
12          of nurse licensure and regulation;
- 13          4. New practice modalities and technology make compliance  
14          with individual state nurse licensure laws difficult  
15          and complex;
- 16          5. The current system of duplicative licensure for nurses  
17          practicing in multiple states is cumbersome and  
18          redundant for both nurses and states; and
- 19          6. Uniformity of nurse licensure requirements throughout  
20          the states promotes public safety and public health  
21          benefits.



- 1           b. The general purposes of this Compact are to:
  - 2            1. Facilitate the states' responsibility to protect the
  - 3            public's health and safety;
  - 4            2. Ensure and encourage the cooperation of party states
  - 5            in the areas of nurse licensure and regulation;
  - 6            3. Facilitate the exchange of information between party
  - 7            states in the areas of nurse regulation, investigation
  - 8            and adverse actions;
  - 9            4. Promote compliance with the laws governing the
  - 10           practice of nursing in each jurisdiction;
  - 11           5. Invest all party states with the authority to hold a
  - 12           nurse accountable for meeting all state practice laws
  - 13           in the state in which the patient is located at the
  - 14           time care is rendered through the mutual recognition
  - 15           of party state licenses;
  - 16           6. Decrease redundancies in the consideration and
  - 17           issuance of nurse licenses; and
  - 18           7. Provide opportunities for interstate practice by
  - 19           nurses who meet uniform licensure requirements.

20                                   **Article II. Definitions**

21           As used in this Compact:

1           a. "Adverse action" means any administrative, civil,  
2 equitable or criminal action permitted by a state's laws, which  
3 is imposed by a licensing board or other authority against a  
4 nurse, including actions against an individual's license or  
5 multistate licensure privilege such as revocation, suspension,  
6 probation, monitoring of the licensee, limitation on the  
7 licensee's practice, or any other encumbrance on licensure  
8 affecting a nurse's authorization to practice, including  
9 issuance of a cease and desist action.

10           b. "Alternative program" means a non-disciplinary  
11 monitoring program approved by a licensing board.

12           c. "Coordinated licensure information system" means an  
13 integrated process for collecting, storing, and sharing  
14 information on nurse licensure and enforcement activities  
15 related to nurse licensure laws that is administered by a  
16 nonprofit organization composed of and controlled by licensing  
17 boards.

18           d. "Current significant investigative information" means:

- 19           1. Investigative information that a licensing board,  
20           after a preliminary inquiry that includes notification  
21           and an opportunity for the nurse to respond, if



1 required by state law, has reason to believe is not  
2 groundless and, if proved true, would indicate more  
3 than a minor infraction; or

4 2. Investigative information that indicates that the  
5 nurse represents an immediate threat to public health  
6 and safety regardless of whether the nurse has been  
7 notified and had an opportunity to respond.

8 e. "Encumbrance" means a revocation or suspension of, or  
9 any limitation on, the full and unrestricted practice of nursing  
10 imposed by a licensing board.

11 f. "Home state" means the party state which is the nurse's  
12 primary state of residence.

13 g. "Licensing board" means a party state's regulatory body  
14 responsible for issuing nurse licenses.

15 h. "Multistate license" means a license to practice as a  
16 registered or a licensed practical/vocational nurse (LPN/VN)  
17 issued by a home state licensing board that authorizes the  
18 licensed nurse to practice in all party states under a  
19 multistate licensure privilege.

20 i. "Multistate licensure privilege" means a legal  
21 authorization associated with a multistate license permitting



1 the practice of nursing as either a registered nurse (RN) or  
2 LPN/VN in a remote state.

3 j. "Nurse" means RN or LPN/VN, as those terms are defined  
4 by each party state's practice laws.

5 k. "Party state" means any state that has adopted this  
6 Compact.

7 l. "Remote state" means a party state, other than the home  
8 state.

9 m. "Single-state license" means a nurse license issued by  
10 a party state that authorizes practice only within the issuing  
11 state and does not include a multistate licensure privilege to  
12 practice in any other party state.

13 n. "State" means a state, territory, or possession of the  
14 United States and the District of Columbia.

15 o. "State practice laws" means a party state's laws,  
16 rules, and regulations that govern the practice of nursing,  
17 define the scope of nursing practice, and create the methods and  
18 grounds for imposing discipline. "State practice laws" do not  
19 include requirements necessary to obtain and retain a license,  
20 except for qualifications or requirements of the home state.

21 **Article III. General Provisions and Jurisdiction**



1           a. A multistate license to practice registered or licensed  
2 practical/vocational nursing issued by a home state to a  
3 resident in that state will be recognized by each party state as  
4 authorizing a nurse to practice as a registered nurse (RN) or as  
5 a licensed practical/vocational nurse (LPN/VN), under a  
6 multistate licensure privilege, in each party state.

7           b. A state must implement procedures for considering the  
8 criminal history records of applicants for initial multistate  
9 license or licensure by endorsement. Such procedures shall  
10 include the submission of fingerprints or other biometric-based  
11 information by applicants for the purpose of obtaining an  
12 applicant's criminal history record information from the Federal  
13 Bureau of Investigation and the agency responsible for retaining  
14 that state's criminal records.

15           c. Each party state shall require the following for an  
16 applicant to obtain or retain a multistate license in the home  
17 state:

- 18           1. Meets the home state's qualifications for licensure or  
19 renewal of licensure, as well as all other applicable  
20 state laws;



- 1           2.    i.           Has graduated or is eligible to graduate
- 2                                   from a licensing board-approved RN or LPN/VN
- 3                                   prelicensure education program; or
- 4            ii.           Has graduated from a foreign RN or LPN/VN
- 5                                   prelicensure education program that has been
- 6                                   approved by the authorized accrediting body
- 7                                   in the applicable country and has been
- 8                                   verified by an independent credentials
- 9                                   review agency to be comparable to a
- 10                                  licensing board-approved prelicensure
- 11                                  education program;
- 12           3.    Has, if a graduate of a foreign prelicensure education
- 13                                  program not taught in English or if English is not the
- 14                                  individual's native language, successfully passed an
- 15                                  English proficiency examination that includes the
- 16                                  components of reading, speaking, writing, and
- 17                                  listening;
- 18           4.    Has successfully passed an NCLEX-RN® or NCLEX-PN®
- 19                                  Examination or recognized predecessor, as applicable;
- 20           5.    Is eligible for or holds an active, unencumbered
- 21                                  license;





- 1           6. Has submitted, in connection with an application for
- 2           initial licensure or licensure by endorsement,
- 3           fingerprints, or other biometric data for the purpose
- 4           of obtaining criminal history record information from
- 5           the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the agency
- 6           responsible for retaining that state's criminal
- 7           records;
- 8           7. Has not been convicted or found guilty, or has entered
- 9           into an agreed disposition, of a felony offense under
- 10          applicable state or federal criminal law;
- 11          8. Has not been convicted or found guilty, or has entered
- 12          into an agreed disposition, of a misdemeanor offense
- 13          related to the practice of nursing as determined on a
- 14          case-by-case basis;
- 15          9. Is not currently enrolled in an alternative program;
- 16          10. Is subject to self-disclosure requirements regarding
- 17          current participation in an alternative program; and
- 18          11. Has a valid United States Social Security Number.
- 19          d. All party states shall be authorized, in accordance
- 20          with existing state due process law, to take adverse action
- 21          against a nurse's multistate licensure privilege such as



1 revocation, suspension, probation, or any other action that  
2 affects a nurse's authorization to practice under a multistate  
3 licensure privilege, including cease and desist actions. If a  
4 party state takes such action, it shall promptly notify the  
5 administrator of the coordinated licensure information system.  
6 The administrator of the coordinated licensure information  
7 system shall promptly notify the home state of any such actions  
8 by remote states.

9 e. A nurse practicing in a party state must comply with  
10 the state practice laws of the state in which the client is  
11 located at the time service is provided. The practice of  
12 nursing is not limited to patient care, but shall include all  
13 nursing practice as defined by the state practice laws of the  
14 party state in which the client is located. The practice of  
15 nursing in a party state under a multistate licensure privilege  
16 will subject a nurse to the jurisdiction of the licensing board,  
17 the courts and the laws of the party state in which the client  
18 is located at the time service is provided.

19 f. Individuals not residing in a party state shall  
20 continue to be able to apply for a party state's single-state  
21 license as provided under the laws of each party state.



1 However, the single-state license granted to these individuals  
2 will not be recognized as granting the privilege to practice  
3 nursing in any other party state. Nothing in this Compact shall  
4 affect the requirements established by a party state for the  
5 issuance of a single-state license.

6 g. Any nurse holding a home state multistate license, on  
7 the effective date of this Compact, may retain and renew the  
8 multistate license issued by the nurse's then-current home  
9 state; provided that:

- 10 1. A nurse who changes primary state of residence after  
11 this Compact's effective date must meet all applicable  
12 Article III.c. requirements to obtain a multistate  
13 license from a new home state.
- 14 2. A nurse who fails to satisfy the multistate licensure  
15 requirements under Article III.c. due to a  
16 disqualifying event occurring after this Compact's  
17 effective date shall be ineligible to retain or renew  
18 a multistate license, and the nurse's multistate  
19 license shall be revoked or deactivated in accordance  
20 with applicable rules adopted by the Interstate



1 Commission of Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators  
2 ("Commission").

3 **Article IV. Applications for Licensure in a Party State**

4 a. Upon application for a multistate license, the  
5 licensing board in the issuing party state shall ascertain,  
6 through the coordinated licensure information system, whether  
7 the applicant has ever held, or is the holder of, a license  
8 issued by any other state, whether there are any encumbrances on  
9 any license or multistate licensure privilege held by the  
10 applicant, whether any adverse action has been taken against any  
11 license or multistate licensure privilege held by the applicant  
12 and whether the applicant is currently participating in an  
13 alternative program.

14 b. A nurse may hold a multistate license, issued by the  
15 home state, in only one party state at a time.

16 c. If a nurse changes primary state of residence by moving  
17 between two party states, the nurse must apply for licensure in  
18 the new home state, and the multistate license issued by the  
19 prior home state will be deactivated in accordance with  
20 applicable rules adopted by the Commission:



1           1. The nurse may apply for licensure in advance of a  
2           change in primary state of residence.

3           2. A multistate license shall not be issued by the new  
4           home state until the nurse provides satisfactory  
5           evidence of a change in primary state of residence to  
6           the new home state and satisfies all applicable  
7           requirements to obtain a multistate license from the  
8           new home state.

9           d. If a nurse changes primary state of residence by moving  
10          from a party state to a nonparty state, the multistate license  
11          issued by the prior home state will convert to a single-state  
12          license, valid only in the former home state.

13           **Article V. Additional Authorities Invested in Party State**  
14   **Licensing Boards**

15          a. In addition to the other powers conferred by state  
16          law, a licensing board shall have the authority to:

17           1. Take adverse action against a nurse's multistate  
18           licensure privilege to practice within that party  
19           state.



- 1           i. Only the home state shall have the power to take  
2           adverse action against a nurse's license issued  
3           by the home state.
- 4           ii. For purposes of taking adverse action, the home  
5           state licensing board shall give the same  
6           priority and effect to reported conduct received  
7           from a remote state as it would if such conduct  
8           had occurred within the home state. In so doing,  
9           the home state shall apply its own state laws to  
10          determine appropriate action.
- 11          2. Issue cease and desist orders or impose an encumbrance  
12          on a nurse's authority to practice within that party  
13          state.
- 14          3. Complete any pending investigations of a nurse who  
15          changes primary state of residence during the course  
16          of such investigations. The licensing board shall  
17          also have the authority to take appropriate action(s),  
18          and shall promptly report the conclusions of such  
19          investigations to the administrator of the coordinated  
20          licensure information system. The administrator of  
21          the coordinated licensure information system shall



1 promptly notify the new home state of any such  
2 actions.

3 4. Issue subpoenas for both hearings and investigations  
4 that require the attendance and testimony of  
5 witnesses, as well as the production of evidence.  
6 Subpoenas issued by a licensing board in a party state  
7 for the attendance and testimony of witnesses or the  
8 production of evidence from another party state shall  
9 be enforced in the latter state by any court of  
10 competent jurisdiction, according to the practice and  
11 procedure of that court applicable to subpoenas issued  
12 in proceedings pending before it. The issuing  
13 authority shall pay any witness fees, travel expenses,  
14 mileage, and other fees required by the service  
15 statutes of the state in which the witnesses or  
16 evidence are located.

17 5. Obtain and submit, for each nurse licensure applicant,  
18 fingerprint or other biometric-based information to  
19 the Federal Bureau of Investigation for criminal  
20 background checks, receive the results of the Federal  
21 Bureau of Investigation record search on criminal



1 background checks and use the results in making  
2 licensure decisions.

3 6. If otherwise permitted by state law, recover from the  
4 affected nurse the costs of investigations and  
5 disposition of cases resulting from any adverse action  
6 taken against that nurse.

7 7. Take adverse action based on the factual findings of  
8 the remote state, provided that the licensing board  
9 follows its own procedures for taking such adverse  
10 action.

11 b. If adverse action is taken by the home state against a  
12 nurse's multistate license, the nurse's multistate licensure  
13 privilege to practice in all other party states shall be  
14 deactivated until all encumbrances have been removed from the  
15 multistate license. All home state disciplinary orders that  
16 impose adverse action against a nurse's multistate license shall  
17 include a statement that the nurse's multistate licensure  
18 privilege is deactivated in all party states during the pendency  
19 of the order.

20 c. Nothing in this Compact shall override a party state's  
21 decision that participation in an alternative program may be





1 used in lieu of adverse action. The home state licensing board  
2 shall deactivate the multistate licensure privilege under the  
3 multistate license of any nurse for the duration of the nurse's  
4 participation in an alternative program.

5 **Article VI. Coordinated Licensure Information System and**  
6 **Exchange of Information**

7 a. All party states shall participate in a coordinated  
8 licensure information system of all licensed registered nurses  
9 (RN) and licensed practical/vocational nurses (LPN/VN). This  
10 system will include information on the licensure and  
11 disciplinary history of each nurse, as submitted by party  
12 states, to assist in the coordination of nurse licensure and  
13 enforcement efforts.

14 b. The Commission, in consultation with the administrator  
15 of the coordinated licensure information system, shall formulate  
16 necessary and proper procedures for the identification,  
17 collection and exchange of information under this Compact.

18 c. All licensing boards shall promptly report to the  
19 coordinated licensure information system any adverse action, any  
20 current significant investigative information, denials of  
21 applications (with the reasons for such denials) and nurse



1 participation in alternative programs known to the licensing  
2 boards regardless of whether such participation is deemed  
3 nonpublic or confidential under state law.

4 d. Current significant investigative information and  
5 participation in nonpublic or confidential alternative programs  
6 shall be transmitted through the coordinated licensure  
7 information system only to party state licensing boards.

8 e. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all party  
9 state licensing boards contributing information to the  
10 coordinated licensure information system may designate  
11 information that may not be shared with nonparty states or  
12 disclosed to other entities or individuals without the express  
13 permission of the contributing state.

14 f. Any personally identifiable information obtained from  
15 the coordinated licensure information system by a party state  
16 licensing board shall not be shared with nonparty states or  
17 disclosed to other entities or individuals except to the extent  
18 permitted by the laws of the party state contributing the  
19 information.

20 g. Any information contributed to the coordinated  
21 licensure information system that is subsequently required to be



1 expunged by the laws of the party state contributing that  
2 information, shall also be expunged from the coordinated  
3 licensure information system.

4 h. The Compact administrator of each party state shall  
5 furnish a uniform data set to the Compact administrator of each  
6 other party state, which shall include, at a minimum:

- 7 1. Identifying information;
- 8 2. Licensure data;
- 9 3. Information related to alternative program  
10 participation; and
- 11 4. Other information that may facilitate the  
12 administration of this Compact, as determined by  
13 Commission rules.

14 i. The Compact administrator of a party state shall  
15 provide all investigative documents and information requested by  
16 another party state.

17 **Article VII. Establishment of the Interstate Commission of**  
18 **Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators**

19 a. The party states hereby create and establish a joint  
20 public entity known as the Interstate Commission of Nurse  
21 Licensure Compact Administrators:



- 1           1. The Commission is an instrumentality of the party  
2           states.
- 3           2. Venue is proper, and judicial proceedings by or  
4           against the Commission shall be brought solely and  
5           exclusively, in a court of competent jurisdiction  
6           where the principal office of the Commission is  
7           located. The Commission may waive venue and  
8           jurisdictional defenses to the extent it adopts or  
9           consents to participate in alternative dispute  
10          resolution proceedings.
- 11          3. Nothing in this Compact shall be construed to be a  
12          waiver of sovereign immunity.
- 13          b. Membership, Voting and Meetings
- 14           1. Each party state shall have and be limited to one  
15           administrator. The head of the state licensing board  
16           or designee shall be the administrator of this Compact  
17           for each party state. Any administrator may be  
18           removed or suspended from office as provided by the  
19           law of the state from which the administrator is  
20           appointed. Any vacancy occurring in the Commission



1 shall be filled in accordance with the laws of the  
2 party state in which the vacancy exists.

3 2. Each administrator shall be entitled to one (1) vote  
4 with regard to the promulgation of rules and creation  
5 of bylaws and shall otherwise have an opportunity to  
6 participate in the business and affairs of the  
7 Commission. An administrator shall vote in person or  
8 by such other means as provided in the bylaws. The  
9 bylaws may provide for an administrator's  
10 participation in meetings by telephone or other means  
11 of communication.

12 3. The Commission shall meet at least once during each  
13 calendar year. Additional meetings shall be held as  
14 set forth in the bylaws or rules of the Commission.

15 4. All meetings shall be open to the public, and public  
16 notice of meetings shall be given in the same manner  
17 as required under the rulemaking provisions under  
18 Article VIII.

19 5. The Commission may convene in a closed, non-public  
20 meeting if the Commission must discuss:



- 1           i. Noncompliance of a party state with its
- 2           obligations under this Compact;
- 3           ii. The employment, compensation, discipline or other
- 4           personnel matters practices or procedures related
- 5           to specific employees or other matters related to
- 6           the Commission's internal personnel practices and
- 7           procedures;
- 8           iii. Current, threatened or reasonably anticipated
- 9           litigation;
- 10          iv. Negotiation of contracts for the purchase or sale
- 11          of goods, services or real estate;
- 12          v. Accusing any person of a crime or formally
- 13          censuring any person;
- 14          vi. Disclosure of trade secrets or commercial or
- 15          financial information that is privileged or
- 16          confidential;
- 17          vii. Disclosure of information of a personal nature
- 18          where disclosure would constitute a clearly
- 19          unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- 20          viii. Disclosure of investigatory records compiled for
- 21          law enforcement purposes;



- 1           ix. Disclosure of information related to any reports
  - 2                 prepared by or on behalf of the Commission for
  - 3                 the purpose of investigation of compliance with
  - 4                 this Compact; or
  - 5           x. Matters specifically exempted from disclosure by
  - 6                 federal or state statute.
- 7       6. If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed
- 8         pursuant to this provision, the Commission's legal
- 9         counsel or designee shall certify that the meeting may
- 10        be closed and shall reference each relevant exempting
- 11        provision. The Commission shall keep minutes that
- 12        fully and clearly describe all matters discussed in a
- 13        meeting and shall provide a full and accurate summary
- 14        of actions taken, and the reasons therefor, including
- 15        a description of the views expressed. All documents
- 16        considered in connection with an action shall be
- 17        identified in such minutes. All minutes and documents
- 18        of a closed meeting shall remain under seal, subject
- 19        to release by a majority vote of the Commission or
- 20        order of a court of competent jurisdiction.



1 c. The Commission shall, by a majority vote of the  
2 administrators, prescribe bylaws or rules to govern its conduct  
3 as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes and  
4 exercise the powers of this Compact, including but not limited  
5 to:

- 6 1. Establishing the fiscal year of the Commission;
- 7 2. Providing reasonable standards and procedures:
  - 8 i. For the establishment and meetings of other
  - 9 committees; and
  - 10 ii. Governing any general or specific delegation of
  - 11 any authority or function of the Commission;
- 12 3. Providing reasonable procedures for calling and
- 13 conducting meetings of the Commission, ensuring
- 14 reasonable advance notice of all meetings, and
- 15 providing an opportunity for attendance of such
- 16 meetings by interested parties, with enumerated
- 17 exceptions designed to protect the public's interest,
- 18 the privacy of individuals, and proprietary
- 19 information, including trade secrets. The Commission
- 20 may meet in closed session only after a majority of
- 21 the administrators vote to close a meeting in whole or





1           in part. As soon as practicable, the Commission must  
2           make public a copy of the vote to close the meeting  
3           revealing the vote of each administrator, with no  
4           proxy votes allowed;

5           4. Establishing the titles, duties, authority, and  
6           reasonable procedures for the election of the officers  
7           of the Commission;

8           5. Providing reasonable standards and procedures for the  
9           establishment of the personnel policies and programs  
10          of the Commission. Notwithstanding any civil service  
11          or other similar laws of any party state, the bylaws  
12          shall exclusively govern the personnel policies and  
13          programs of the commission; and

14          6. Providing a mechanism for winding up the operations of  
15          the Commission and the equitable disposition of any  
16          surplus funds that may exist after the termination of  
17          this Compact after the payment or reserving of all of  
18          its debts and obligations.

19          d. The Commission shall publish its bylaws and rules, and  
20          any amendments thereto, in a convenient form on the website of  
21          the Commission.



1 e. The Commission shall maintain its financial records in  
2 accordance with the bylaws.

3 f. The Commission shall meet and take such actions as are  
4 consistent with the provisions of this Compact and the bylaws.

5 g. The Commission shall have the following powers:

6 1. To promulgate uniform rules to facilitate and  
7 coordinate implementation and administration of this  
8 Compact. The rules shall have the force and effect of  
9 law and shall be binding in all party states;

10 2. To bring and prosecute legal proceedings or actions in  
11 the name of the Commission provided that the standing  
12 of any licensing board to sue or be sued under  
13 applicable law shall not be affected;

14 3. To purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;

15 4. To borrow, accept or contract for services of  
16 personnel, including, but not limited to, employees of  
17 a party state or nonprofit organizations;

18 5. To cooperate with other organizations that administer  
19 state compacts related to the regulation of nursing,  
20 including but not limited to sharing administrative or  
21 staff expenses, office space or other resources;



- 1           6. To hire employees, elect, or appoint officers, fix  
2           compensation, define duties, grant such individuals  
3           appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of  
4           this Compact, and to establish the Commission's  
5           personnel policies and programs relating to conflicts  
6           of interest, qualifications of personnel and other  
7           related personnel matters;
- 8           7. To accept any and all appropriate donations, grants  
9           and gifts of money, equipment, supplies, materials,  
10          and services, and to receive, utilize and dispose of  
11          the same; provided that at all times the Commission  
12          shall avoid any appearance of impropriety or conflict  
13          of interest;
- 14          8. To lease, purchase, accept appropriate gifts or  
15          donations of, or otherwise to own, hold, improve or  
16          use, any property, whether real, personal or mixed;  
17          provided that at all times the Commission shall avoid  
18          any appearance of impropriety;
- 19          9. To sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange,  
20          abandon or otherwise dispose of any property, whether  
21          real, personal or mixed;



- 1           10. To establish a budget and make expenditures;
- 2           11. To borrow money;
- 3           12. To appoint committees, including advisory committees
- 4                 composed of administrators, state nursing regulators,
- 5                 state legislators or their representatives, and
- 6                 consumer representatives, and other such interested
- 7                 persons;
- 8           13. To provide and receive information from, and to
- 9                 cooperate with, law enforcement agencies;
- 10          14. To adopt and use an official seal; and
- 11          15. To perform such other functions as may be necessary or
- 12                 appropriate to achieve the purposes of this Compact
- 13                 consistent with the state regulation of nurse
- 14                 licensure and practice.
- 15          h. Financing of the Commission:
- 16             1. The Commission shall pay, or provide for the payment
- 17                 of, the reasonable expenses of its establishment,
- 18                 organization and ongoing activities.
- 19             2. The Commission may also levy on and collect an annual
- 20                 assessment from each party state to cover the cost of
- 21                 its operations, activities and staff in its annual



1 budget as approved each year. The aggregate annual  
2 assessment amount, if any, shall be allocated based  
3 upon a formula to be determined by the Commission,  
4 which shall promulgate a rule that is binding upon all  
5 party states.

6 3. The Commission shall not incur obligations of any kind  
7 prior to securing the funds adequate to meet the same;  
8 nor shall the Commission pledge the credit of any of  
9 the party states, except by, and with the authority  
10 of, such party state.

11 4. The Commission shall keep accurate accounts of all  
12 receipts and disbursements. The receipts and  
13 disbursements of the Commission shall be subject to  
14 the audit and accounting procedures established under  
15 its bylaws. However, all receipts and disbursements  
16 of funds handled by the Commission shall be audited  
17 yearly by a certified or licensed public accountant,  
18 and the report of the audit shall be included in and  
19 become part of the annual report of the Commission.

20 i. Qualified Immunity, Defense and Indemnification:



- 1           1. The administrators, officers, executive director,  
2           employees and representatives of the Commission shall  
3           be immune from suit and liability, either personally  
4           or in their official capacity, for any claim for  
5           damage to or loss of property or personal injury or  
6           other civil liability caused by or arising out of any  
7           actual or alleged act, error or omission that  
8           occurred, or that the person against whom the claim is  
9           made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred,  
10          within the scope of Commission employment, duties or  
11          responsibilities; provided that nothing in this  
12          paragraph shall be construed to protect any such  
13          person from suit or liability for any damage, loss,  
14          injury or liability caused by the intentional,  
15          willful, or wanton misconduct of that person.
- 16          2. The Commission shall defend any administrator,  
17          officer, executive director, employee or  
18          representative of the Commission in any civil action  
19          seeking to impose liability arising out of any actual  
20          or alleged act, error or omission that occurred within  
21          the scope of Commission employment, duties or



1 responsibilities, or that the person against whom the  
2 claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing  
3 occurred within the scope of Commission employment,  
4 duties or responsibilities; provided that nothing  
5 herein shall be construed to prohibit that person from  
6 retaining his or her own counsel; and provided further  
7 that the actual or alleged act, error or omission did  
8 not result from that person's intentional, willful or  
9 wanton misconduct.

- 10 3. The Commission shall indemnify and hold harmless any  
11 administrator, officer, executive director, employee,  
12 or representative of the Commission for the amount of  
13 any settlement or judgment obtained against that  
14 person arising out of any actual or alleged act, error  
15 or omission that occurred within the scope of  
16 Commission employment, duties or responsibilities, or  
17 that such person had a reasonable basis for believing  
18 occurred within the scope of Commission employment,  
19 duties or responsibilities, provided that the actual  
20 or alleged act, error or omission did not result from



1 the intentional, willful, or wanton misconduct of that  
2 person.

3 **Article VIII. Rulemaking**

4 a. The Commission shall exercise its rulemaking powers  
5 pursuant to the criteria set forth in this Article and the rules  
6 adopted thereunder. Rules and amendments shall become binding  
7 as of the date specified in each rule or amendment and shall  
8 have the same force and effect as provisions of this Compact.

9 b. Rules or amendments to the rules shall be adopted at a  
10 regular or special meeting of the Commission.

11 c. Prior to promulgation and adoption of a final rule or  
12 rules by the commission, and at least sixty (60) days in advance  
13 of the meeting at which the rule will be considered and voted  
14 upon, the Commission shall file a notice of proposed rulemaking:

- 15 1. On the website of the Commission; and  
16 2. On the website of each licensing board or the  
17 publication in which each state would otherwise  
18 publish proposed rules.

19 d. The notice of proposed rulemaking shall include:

- 20 1. The proposed time, date and location of the meeting in  
21 which the rule will be considered and voted upon;





- 1           2. The text of the proposed rule or amendment, and the  
2           reason for the proposed rule;
- 3           3. A request for comments on the proposed rule from any  
4           interested person; and
- 5           4. The manner in which interested persons may submit  
6           notice to the Commission of their intention to attend  
7           the public hearing and any written comments.
- 8           e. Prior to adoption of a proposed rule, the Commission  
9           shall allow persons to submit written data, facts, opinions and  
10          arguments, which shall be made available to the public.
- 11          f. The Commission shall grant an opportunity for a public  
12          hearing before it adopts a rule or amendment.
- 13          g. The Commission shall publish the place, time, and date  
14          of the scheduled public hearing.
- 15          1. Hearings shall be conducted in a manner providing each  
16          person who wishes to comment a fair and reasonable  
17          opportunity to comment orally or in writing. All  
18          hearings will be recorded, and a copy will be made  
19          available upon request.
- 20          2. Nothing in this section shall be construed as  
21          requiring a separate hearing on each rule. Rules may



1           be grouped for the convenience of the Commission at  
2           hearings required by this section.

3           h. If no one appears at the public hearing, the Commission  
4 may proceed with promulgation of the proposed rule.

5           i. Following the scheduled hearing date, or by the close  
6 of business on the scheduled hearing date if the hearing was not  
7 held, the Commission shall consider all written and oral  
8 comments received.

9           j. The Commission shall, by majority vote of all  
10 administrators, take final action on the proposed rule and shall  
11 determine the effective date of the rule, if any, based on the  
12 rulemaking record and the full text of the rule.

13          k. Upon determination that an emergency exists, the  
14 Commission may consider and adopt an emergency rule without  
15 prior notice, opportunity for comment or hearing, provided that  
16 the usual rulemaking procedures provided in this Compact and in  
17 this section shall be retroactively applied to the rule as soon  
18 as reasonably possible, in no event later than ninety (90) days  
19 after the effective date of the rule. For the purposes of this  
20 provision, an emergency rule is one that must be adopted  
21 immediately in order to:



- 1           1. Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety or
- 2           welfare;
- 3           2. Prevent a loss of Commission or party state funds; or
- 4           3. Meet a deadline for the promulgation of an
- 5           administrative rule that is required by federal law or
- 6           rule.

7           1. The Commission may direct revisions to a previously

8 adopted rule or amendment for purposes of correcting

9 typographical errors, errors in format, errors in consistency or

10 grammatical errors. Public notice of any revisions shall be

11 posted on the website of the Commission. The revision shall be

12 subject to challenge by any person for a period of thirty days

13 after posting. The revision may be challenged only on grounds

14 that the revision results in a material change to a rule. A

15 challenge shall be made in writing, and delivered to the

16 Commission, prior to the end of the notice period. If no

17 challenge is made, the revision will take effect without further

18 action. If the revision is challenged, the revision may not

19 take effect without the approval of the Commission.

20           **Article IX. Oversight, Dispute Resolution and Enforcement**

21           a. Oversight:



- 1           1. Each party state shall enforce this Compact and take  
2           all actions necessary and appropriate to effectuate  
3           this Compact's purposes and intent.
- 4           2. The Commission shall be entitled to receive service of  
5           process in any proceeding that may affect the powers,  
6           responsibilities, or actions of the Commission, and  
7           shall have standing to intervene in such a proceeding  
8           for all purposes. Failure to provide service of  
9           process in such proceeding to the Commission shall  
10          render a judgment or order void as to the Commission,  
11          this Compact or promulgated rules.
- 12          b. Default, Technical Assistance and Termination:
- 13           1. If the Commission determines that a party state has  
14           defaulted in the performance of its obligations or  
15           responsibilities under this Compact or the promulgated  
16           rules, the Commission shall:
- 17           i. Provide written notice to the defaulting state  
18           and other party states of the nature of the  
19           default, the proposed means of curing the default  
20           or any other action to be taken by the  
21           Commission; and



- 1           ii. Provide remedial training and specific technical  
2           assistance regarding the default.
- 3           2. If a state in default fails to cure the default, the  
4           defaulting state's membership in this Compact may be  
5           terminated upon an affirmative vote of a majority of  
6           the administrators, and all rights, privileges and  
7           benefits conferred by this Compact may be terminated  
8           on the effective date of termination. A cure of the  
9           default does not relieve the offending state of  
10          obligations or liabilities incurred during the period  
11          of default.
- 12          3. Termination of membership in this Compact shall be  
13          imposed only after all other means of securing  
14          compliance have been exhausted. Notice of intent to  
15          suspend or terminate shall be given by the Commission  
16          to the governor of the defaulting state and to the  
17          executive officer of the defaulting state's licensing  
18          board and each of the party states.
- 19          4. A state whose membership in this Compact has been  
20          terminated is responsible for all assessments,  
21          obligations and liabilities incurred through the



1 effective date of termination, including obligations  
2 that extend beyond the effective date of termination.

3 5. The Commission shall not bear any costs related to a  
4 state that is found to be in default or whose  
5 membership in this Compact has been terminated unless  
6 agreed upon in writing between the commission and the  
7 defaulting state.

8 6. The defaulting state may appeal the action of the  
9 Commission by petitioning the U.S. District Court for  
10 the District of Columbia or the federal district in  
11 which the Commission has its principal offices. The  
12 prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of such  
13 litigation, including reasonable attorneys' fees.

14 c. Dispute Resolution:

15 1. Upon request by a party state, the Commission shall  
16 attempt to resolve disputes related to the Compact  
17 that arise among party states and between party and  
18 nonparty states.

19 2. The Commission shall promulgate a rule providing for  
20 both mediation and binding dispute resolution for  
21 disputes, as appropriate.



1           3. In the event the Commission cannot resolve disputes  
2 among party states arising under this Compact:

3           i. The party states may submit the issues in dispute  
4 to an arbitration panel, which will be composed  
5 of individuals appointed by the Compact  
6 administrator in each of the affected party  
7 states and an individual mutually agreed upon by  
8 the Compact administrators of all the party  
9 states involved in the dispute.

10           ii. The decision of a majority of the arbitrators  
11 shall be final and binding.

12           d. Enforcement:

13           1. The Commission, in the reasonable exercise of its  
14 discretion, shall enforce the provisions and rules of  
15 this Compact.

16           2. By majority vote, the Commission may initiate legal  
17 action in the U.S. District Court for the District of  
18 Columbia or the federal district in which the  
19 Commission has its principal offices against a party  
20 state that is in default to enforce compliance with  
21 the provisions of this Compact and its promulgated



1 rules and bylaws. The relief sought may include both  
2 injunctive relief and damages. In the event judicial  
3 enforcement is necessary, the prevailing party shall  
4 be awarded all costs of such litigation, including  
5 reasonable attorneys' fees.

6 3. The remedies herein shall not be the exclusive  
7 remedies of the Commission. The Commission may pursue  
8 any other remedies available under federal or state  
9 law.

10 **Article X. Effective Date, Withdrawal and Amendment**

11 a. This Compact shall become effective and binding on the  
12 earlier of the date of legislative enactment of this Compact  
13 into law by no less than twenty-six (26) states or December 31,  
14 2018. All party states to this Compact that also were parties  
15 to the prior Nurse Licensure Compact, superseded by this  
16 Compact, ("Prior Compact") shall be deemed to have withdrawn  
17 from said Prior Compact within six months after the effective  
18 date of this Compact.

19 b. Each party state to this Compact shall continue to  
20 recognize a nurse's multistate licensure privilege to practice





1 in that party state issued under the Prior Compact until such  
2 party state has withdrawn from the Prior Compact.

3 c. Any party state may withdraw from this Compact by  
4 enacting a statute repealing the same. A party state's  
5 withdrawal shall not take effect until six (6) months after  
6 enactment of the repealing statute.

7 d. A party state's withdrawal or termination shall not  
8 affect the continuing requirement of the withdrawing or  
9 terminated state's licensing board to report adverse actions and  
10 significant investigations occurring prior to the effective date  
11 of such withdrawal or termination.

12 e. Nothing contained in this Compact shall be construed to  
13 invalidate or prevent any nurse licensure agreement or other  
14 cooperative arrangement between a party state and a nonparty  
15 state that is made in accordance with the other provisions of  
16 this Compact.

17 f. This Compact may be amended by the party states. No  
18 amendment to this Compact shall become effective and binding  
19 upon the party states unless and until it is enacted into the  
20 laws of all party states.



1 g. Representatives of nonparty states to this Compact  
2 shall be invited to participate in the activities of the  
3 Commission, on a nonvoting basis, prior to the adoption of this  
4 Compact by all states.

5 **Article XI. Construction and Severability**

6 This Compact shall be liberally construed so as to  
7 effectuate the purposes thereof. The provisions of this Compact  
8 shall be severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or  
9 provision of this Compact is declared to be contrary to the  
10 constitution of any party state or of the United States, or if  
11 the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or  
12 circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of  
13 this Compact and the applicability thereof to any government,  
14 agency, person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby.  
15 If this Compact shall be held to be contrary to the constitution  
16 of any party state, this Compact shall remain in full force and  
17 effect as to the remaining party states and in full force and  
18 effect as to the party state affected as to all severable  
19 matters."

20 PART II



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 457, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§457- (a) Beginning January 1, 2026, and annually  
5 thereafter, individuals that hold a multistate nurse license  
6 issued by a state other than Hawaii and are employed by any  
7 health care facility as defined in section 323D-2 shall complete  
8 any demographic data surveys required by the board of nursing as  
9 a condition of employment.

10 (b) All health care facilities shall report to the board  
11 of nursing, within thirty days of employment, all nurses holding  
12 a multistate license issued by a state other than Washington and  
13 an attestation that the employees holding a multistate licensed  
14 issued by a state other than Hawaii have completed the tasks  
15 required under this section as a condition of employment."

16 SECTION 3. Section 457-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

18 "(c) The applicant applying for a license to practice as a  
19 registered nurse by examination shall pay application,  
20 examination, and reexamination fees, if applicable, as  
21 prescribed by the board. Each applicant who successfully passes



1 the examination shall pay a license fee. The applicant applying  
2 for a license to practice as a registered nurse by endorsement  
3 shall pay application and license fees. Beginning January 1,  
4 2026, the board may charge different fees for registered nurses  
5 who hold a multistate license issued by the State."

6 SECTION 4. Section 457-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
7 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

8 "(c) The applicant applying for a license to practice as a  
9 licensed practical nurse by examination shall pay application,  
10 examination, and reexamination fees, if applicable, as  
11 prescribed by the board. Each applicant who successfully passes  
12 the examination shall pay a license fee. The applicant applying  
13 for a license to practice as a licensed practical nurse by  
14 endorsement shall pay application and license fees. Beginning  
15 January 1, 2026, the board may charge different fees for  
16 licensed practical nurses who hold a multistate license issued  
17 by the State."

18 PART III

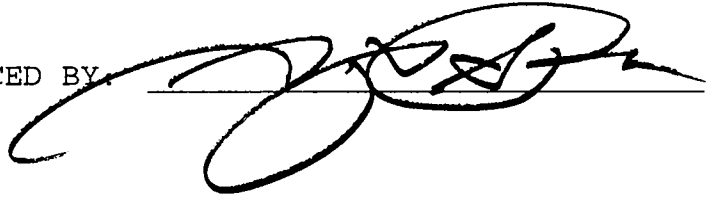
19 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;  
2 provided that section 1 shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

3

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is highly stylized and cursive, with large loops and flourishes.

# S.B. NO. 2492

**Report Title:**

State Board of Nursing; Nurse Licensure Compact; Registered Nurses; Licensed Practical Nurses; Fees

**Description:**

Allows the Governor to enter the State into the multi-state Nurse Licensure Compact, which will allow a nurse who is licensed by a home state to practice under a multi-state licensure privilege in each party state, effective 1/1/2026. Beginning 1/1/2026, allows the State Board of Nursing to charge different fees for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses who hold a multi-state license issued by the State.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

