

**Vermont Association of Nurse Anesthetists (VTANA)
Vermont Nurse Practitioners Association (VNPA)
American Certified Nurse Midwives – Vermont Chapter (ACNM-VT)**

**H527 – Fee Bill
Senate Finance Committee
March 12, 2019**

On behalf of the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) associations listed above, we oppose the unreasonable proposed increases to the APRN fees in the H.527 – Fee Bill.

APRNs in Vermont, as in many states, are required to pay both the APRN license fee, in addition to the Registered Nurse (RN) license fee.

Under the current fee structure, APRNs are required to pay the following biannual renewal fees:

Registered Nurse	\$140
Advanced practice registered nurses	<u>\$ 75</u>
Total	\$215

As introduced, APRNs would have been required to pay a 43% increase in the RN renewal fee and a 200% increase in the APRN renewal fee:

Registered Nurse	\$200
Advanced practice registered nurses	<u>\$225</u>
Total	\$425

As passed by the House, APRNs will be required to pay a 43% increase in the RN renewal fee and a 66% increase in the APRN renewal fee.

Registered Nurse	\$200
Advanced practice registered nurses	<u>\$125</u>
Total	\$325

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) is an independent, not-for-profit organization through which nursing regulatory bodies act and counsel together on matters of common interest and concern. The NCSBN prepared a 2017 report on nursing licensure throughout the country. P.71 of the report shows that Vermont's APRN renewal licensing fees, **as they currently stand (before the proposed increase)** are significantly higher than most other states/territories – in fact, they join only 3 other states/territories as the **highest APRN renewal fees in the nation**. https://www.ncsbn.org/2017_Licensure_MBPResponses.pdf

Both the originally proposed increase, as well as the increase passed by the House, are out-of-step with the rest of the nation. They will serve as a deterrent for APRNs to seek licensure in Vermont, resulting in an even greater health care provider shortage than currently exists.

We urge you to join us in opposing these fee increases.