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**Act No. 64 (S.48). Health; professions and occupations; nurse licensure**

**An act relating to Vermont's adoption of the interstate Nurse Licensure Compact**

This act enters Vermont into the multistate Nurse Licensure Compact as amended by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. By entering into the Compact, Vermont agrees to the multistate compact terms of licensure for Registered Nurses (RNs) and Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) / Vocational Nurses (VNs).

The Compact contains these main provisions:

- Multistate license. A Compact multistate license authorizes a nurse to practice in each state that is a party to the Compact.
- One compact license. A nurse can only hold one Compact license, and that license can only be issued by the nurse's "home state."
  - A nurse's "home state" means the nurse's primary state of residence, and that primary state of residence must be a Compact state.
  - Once a nurse moves to a new home state, the nurse must apply for a new license in that home state, and the prior home state Compact license is deactivated.
  - If the new home state is not a Compact state, the prior home state license converts to a single-state (standard) license.
- Requirements for licensure. A nurse must meet the Compact requirements in order to obtain a Compact multistate license, including a criminal background check, meeting education and exam requirements, meeting the home state's qualifications for licensure, and having a valid U.S. social security number.
- Compliance with state laws. A nurse is required to comply with a Compact state's laws governing the practice of nursing when providing care to a client in that Compact state.
- Discipline of nurses. Each Compact state may discipline a nurse's license in that state.

- This includes the ability to discipline based on the factual findings of another Compact state.
- However, if a home state disciplines the nurse's license, the nurse's ability to practice under the Compact license is suspended until all encumbrances have been removed from the home state license.
- Compact Licensure Information System. Compact states are required to share licensure information—including any disciplinary actions—in the Compact's Coordinated Licensure Information System.
- State administrator. Each Compact state has one representative (the head of the state licensing board or designee) on the Compact's Interstate Commission of Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators, which has rulemaking authority to administer the Compact. The state administrator for Vermont will be the Executive Director of the Vermont State Board of Nursing or designee.
- Withdrawal from Compact. A state may withdraw from the Compact by repealing the enabling law, but the withdrawal does not take effect until six months after that repeal, and the state must comply with the Compact terms until that time.

This act also requires the Office of Professional Regulation to submit a report by January 15, 2024, concerning the costs of implementing the Compact, the number of licenses issued annually, and a proposal for managing any reduction in revenues available to the Vermont Board of Nursing as a result of implementation of the Compact.

Effective Date: February 1, 2022