

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS24056

The purpose of this proposed legislation is to adopt the new "Enhanced" Nurse Licensure Compact to replace the current Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) of which Idaho has been a member since 2001. The Enhanced NLC is an amended version of the current NLC, an interstate compact modeled after the Driver's License Compact that provides the mechanism for member states to mutually recognize nurse licenses, thereby alleviating the need for licensed practical nurses and licensed registered nurses to hold multiple licenses. The NLC is currently in effect in 25 states. For 15 years, the NLC has effectively increased mobility for nurses, improved state and healthcare facility access to qualified nurses during disasters or other times of extraordinary need for qualified nursing services, facilitated continuity of care through telehealth and reduced unnecessary regulatory processes. In those 15 years, member states have identified significant statutory revisions, reflected in this legislation that will improve the Compact. If enacted, these improvements should result in the "Enhanced" Compact ultimately being adopted by most states. The "Enhanced" Nurse Licensure Compact incorporates language agreed to by the 50 states and four U. S. territories. This language addresses concerns about public protection as well as operational and governance issues with the current Compact, including:

- Incorporation of uniform licensure requirements agreed to by all states.
- Clarification of the role and relationships of the Compact governing body.
- Clarification of processes for rulemaking.
- Inclusion of clear Compact enforcement provisions.
- Provisions for grandfathering nurses currently holding multi-state licenses issued by Compact states.
- Provisions for adoption and implementation of the "Enhanced" NLC and withdrawal from the current NLC.

FISCAL NOTE

This legislation will have minimal fiscal impact, anticipated to be less than \$2,000 needed to inform stakeholders of the transition to the new Compact. The annual fee to belong to the governing commission of the Compact is anticipated to remain consistent with the fee currently being paid.

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