

Health Policy Committee of CCNBNA Bill Summary 2022-23

Support Senate Bill 1277

Changes in the 2017 Nurse Practice Act (NPA) regarding delegation lowering the standard to practice nursing in Illinois. It no longer required that qualified (educated) authorized (licensed) nurses practice nursing interventions outside the hospital – creating access disparity of nursing services.

RESTORE that only qualified & authorized nurses practice nursing interventions **across all settings** – including the Community setting (i.e., clinics and schools) – SUPPORT Senate Bill 1277. The unsuspecting public deserves qualified and authorized nurses practicing nursing across all care settings from the hospital to the community with SB 1277 as they have until dramatic untested changes occurred in the 2017 NPA.

OPPOSED HB1069 amends the Nurse Practice Act and would allow new graduates who are qualified to take but have not passed the NCLEX to practice as License Pending or Exam Pending under the direction of a Registered Nurse. **RATIONALE** – research supports the longer graduate nurses delay taking NCLEX, the more **likely successful licensure pass rates drop**. This bill violates the *Legislative Purpose* of the Illinois Nurse Practice Act, weakening our nursing regulation, lowering the standard of nursing education and licensure result - impact to public safety. Legislative Purpose states one must be qualified (educated and pass an approved nursing curriculum) and authorized (licensed which is passing the NCLEX nursing exam) before practicing as a nurse. These two components education and licensure set the standard to practice nursing in Illinois as determined for over a century in protecting the unsuspecting public from harm.

OPPOSED SB041 spearheaded by ANA-Illinois and sponsored by Senator Sara Feigenholtz, Nurse Licensure Compact. Many groups continue to support the passage of the Nurse Licensure Compact. **RATIONALE:** The Compact removes millions of dollars from Nurse Licensure Fee Fund which supports ALL our nursing programs (i.e., scholarships, Board of Nursing, IDFPR attorney services)

- Illinois nursing licensure fee is among the lowest (tenth) in the country. (\$40/year)
- In a Compact the state of residence is the depository of the nurse licensure fee. The reduction of state revenue from losing 42,000 licensed nurses is \$3,360,000 (3.4 million)
- **Each state must first license its professionals.** Compacts don't license nurses. A state licenses the nurse.

OPPOSED SB 1779 Licensed Medication Aide This unevidenced legislation suggests a non-nurse take 1.5 weeks of education and then can administer oral and injectable medications as directed by a registered nurse in long term care. This Licensed Medication Aide Pilot failed in 2020 with only 4 participants in its pilot. This bill passed out of the Senate and was held in Committee after aggressive lobbying efforts by CCNBNA nurses to House Representatives. SB 1779 was held in the House Licensed Activities Committee. **This bill failed in 2023.**

OPPOSED HB 2509 REGISTER NURSE-EXAM/REMIEDATE HB 2509 Neutralizes the Nurse Practice Act regulation of Illinois Department Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) oversight of the 136 nursing colleges and universities prohibiting placing underperforming schools of nursing with graduating class NCLEX exam passage rates of less than 75% as stated in our NPA law. This measure will allow underperforming schools to continue to enroll students in their underperforming curricula – placing students at risk for failing the national nursing exam NCLEX and denied licensure as a registered nurse. This does not include LPN programs. This is the first state to lower quality standards of education to keep a nursing school on habitual probation open for enrolling more students until 2026. No lower limit of passage rate to place a school on probation or action by IDFPR is inferred in HB 2509. CCNBNA and Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation **OPPOSED** HB 2509. **HB 2509 passed both House and Senate in 2023.**

SUPPORT HB 3338 and SB 2314 Safe Patient Limits Act It's time to fix the Real problem with a real solution. That means adequate numbers of RNs to care for the public. Call your legislators and tell them to fix the work environment and nurses may come back. Oct 03, 2023, is the Subject Matter Hearing. BE THERE and tell your stories to the legislators.



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