This legislation authorizes Massachusetts to participate in the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). The NLC allows nurses to have one multistate license in the state where they reside, with the privilege to practice in their home state and all other states that are members of the NLC.

ANA Massachusetts (ANAMASS) strongly supports joining the NLC in order to facilitate nurses’ ability to provide necessary follow-up care to patients who reside in other Compact states, especially important to nurses who practice near the borders of MA or care for tourists coming from surrounding states who seek care in MA. Currently, 41 states participate in the NLC, including VT, ME, NH, and NJ with legislation pending in NY, RI, and PA (as of 7.19.23).

- The goal of the NLC is to increase patient access to quality care by allowing registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical/vocational nurses (LPN/VNs) the ability to practice in any compact state without obtaining and maintaining multiple licenses.
- Operational for over 20 years, the NLC has many benefits for our state. The NLC is a benefit to nurses, providing flexible licensure, which enables nurses to explore careers providing care via telehealth and nurse educators to provide instruction with ease.
- The NLC is a benefit to patients, increasing access to nursing services across the country quickly and efficiently, which is essential for the health of many rural and underserved communities.
- The NLC is a benefit to military families. Military spouses are burdened with applying for a new nursing license each time the family must relocate. Under the NLC, the spouse’s employment can continue seamlessly.
- Finally, the NLC is a benefit in times of crisis. Under the NLC, a nurse is able to easily cross state lines to help those in need. Modern healthcare requires a mobile workforce, whether responding to healthcare provider shortages across the country or assisting during times of disaster.

Licensing standards under the NLC are more stringent than Massachusetts’ current standards since to obtain a Compact license, a nurse must undergo a criminal background check (not a requirement for nurses applying for MA RN/LPN licenses today).

Joining the Compact would flag “dangerous nurses” for the Board of Registration in Nursing before they are allowed to practice in the Commonwealth since the NLC would require Compact states to share disciplinary information, including investigations, for nurses coming from other Compact states, which is currently not required.

THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING THIS VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE TO NURSES AND PATIENTS IN YOUR DISTRICT.