



NLAC Update: NOVEMBER 2019

NLAC will hold a virtual meeting in December to review the 2019 legislative session and discuss the issues and interests each member is examining for the 87th Texas Legislature in 2021.

Advocacy – What is it good for?

Tuesday, November 5th is [Election Day](#). How does your organization encourage advocacy amongst its members? Are there any specific resources you think are particularly effective that may be good to share? What are the most common fears your members have with regards to contacting their state lawmakers to discuss issues related to nursing and health care in Texas?

Find advocacy resources on TNA's [Nurse Day at the Capitol](#) page, including stories from members about the importance of advocacy and involvement in the legislative process, and a video on [Advocacy Do's and Don'ts](#), created last year by TNA's Government Affairs Committee to help our members prepare to meet with their state lawmakers. Both resources are available to the public.

Please send any suggestions or resources to Cathy White at cwhite@texasnurses.org. We want to make sure Texas nurses are informed, educated and prepared to assist state lawmakers with decisions that affect the profession and Texas patients.

**Dr. Cheryl Brohard, University of Houston College of Nursing
in collaboration with the Texas Nurses Association End-of-Life Task Force**

Recruiting Nurses to Participate in a Short Online Study on Palliative Care

We are looking for nurses to complete a 15-minute online survey on their knowledge of the palliative care competencies. The goal is to identify the high priority palliative care educational needs of nurses in Texas and to develop educational offerings.

To be eligible for this study, you must be a licensed nurse in Texas and able to access the survey on the internet. You may also enter a raffle for one of 20 gift cards worth \$25. Your responses will be completely anonymous. If you choose to enter the raffle, we will collect your email address, but it will in no way be attached to your responses.

TAKE SURVEY

For more information, please contact cbrohard@uh.edu or call 832-842-2960.

This research has been approved by the University of Houston IRB. It is being sponsored by a grant from the Phi Chi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International.



**** Follow us on Twitter at @TXNursesLege, the twitter handle for Nursewatch.**

Capitol Brief Update

by Kevin C. Stewart, II

Speaker Bonnen Update

The controversy surrounding Speaker Bonnen has finally come to a conclusion.

The recording of the meeting between Speaker Bonnen, Representative Burrows, and Michael Quinn Sullivan, released Oct. 15, corroborated Sullivan's accusations — he was asked to target ten Republicans in their primary races. By Thursday, Representatives Kacal, Darby, Raymond, Raney, Anderson, and Lambert stated publicly that Bonnen should resign. On Friday, the House Republican Caucus formally condemned Bonnen, and suggested the possibility of endorsing a different Speaker candidate.

Things worsened the following week. Oct. 21, Bonnen's own committee chairs made statements. Chairman Huberty (Public Education), Larson (Natural Resources), Paddie (Energy Resources), Price (Calendars), and King (Redistricting) stated publicly that they no longer support Bonnen.

The following day, Bonnen announced that he would not be seeking reelection. He will likely continue as Speaker until the end of his term, but the House will be appointing a new Speaker when they convene again in 2021. As for legal proceedings, House democrats have dropped their lawsuit, and the Brazoria County District Attorney has said that Bonnen will not face criminal charges. The official report from the Texas Rangers is still outstanding, though.

Texas Medical Board Rules

In September, the Texas Medical Board hosted a stakeholder meeting regarding a handful of rules that would have been extremely harmful to nurses. The first was a radiology rule that would have required delegating physicians to review and approve each interpretation of a radiological study that a delegate makes. The next rule would have prohibited non-physicians from owning facilities that perform nonsurgical medical cosmetic procedures. Last was a rule requiring that CRNAs be supervised by their delegating physician.

Through a combined effort from nursing organizations, individual nurses, and other stakeholders, many of the problems with these rules were addressed prior to the Medical Board meeting on October 18th. However, there are still some concerns with the rules that the Medical Board voted to propose. Please stay tuned! When the rules are formally published, you may be asked to submit comments about how the proposed language would impact your practice.

Bookmark [Texas Tribune](#) to get the latest political news!



Texas Register: Rules and Regulations

[October 25, 2019](#)

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

19 TAC §6.73, Nursing, Allied Health and Other Health-Related Education Grant Program. (PROPOSED) There is currently a statutory fund for higher education health-related programs, which was created using tobacco lawsuit settlement funds. While the funds were initially directed to all health-related programs, a provision was added to temporarily direct all of the funds only to nursing programs. The provision directing all of the funds to nursing was set to expire in 2019, but HB 1401 (86th) extended that date to 2023. This rule proposal aligns THECB rules with the new law.

[October 18, 2019](#)

Texas Board of Nursing

22 TAC 217.20: Safe Harbor Nursing Peer Review and Whistleblower Protections (ADOPTED) Implements HB 2410 (Supported by TNA) to allow nurses to orally invoke Safe Harbor provisions under certain emergent circumstances and requires subsequent peer review within a specific time. Effective date: October 22, 2019

[October 11, 2019](#)

Texas State Board of Dental Examiners

22 TAC 104.1 and 111.1, Continuing Education. (PROPOSED) The Dental Board has proposed rules that implement the opioid prescribing legislation that passed last session. They are proposing a total of six new hours, all of which can count towards existing requirements.

Texas Board of Nursing

22 TAC 217.12, Unprofessional Conduct. (ADOPTED) The Board has adopted the proposal that removed that ability for the Board to discipline persons based on a default or breach of a student loan repayment contract. This rule was required by Senate Bill 37, (86th Legislature). The board did not receive any comments.

22 TAC 222.5, Prescriptive Authority Agreement. (ADOPTED) The Board has adopted a rule that simplifies requirements related to Prescriptive Authority Agreements by eliminating face-to-face meetings. The Board did not receive any comments.

Remember ...

- The [Texas Register](#) may be found on the Texas [Secretary of State](#) website, where you'll find **ALL** the rule proposals and adoptions from the Texas BON and other state regulatory agencies, which is updated weekly on Fridays. Nursewatch will print some of the more pertinent updates to nursing rules and regulations but you can delve deeper into current and past issues of the Texas Register at your leisure on the S.O.S. website.

Upcoming Events



- [2019 Uniform Election](#), Tuesday, Nov. 5 – If you didn't take advantage of early voting, Tuesday is the day to get to the polls and cast your ballot! Find your polling place and anything else you need to know via the link, then exercise your right as an American citizen and [VOTE](#).
- [Underserved: A Conversation on Rural Health Care](#), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5. Texas Tribune discussion; attend in person or watch via livestream. Register [here](#).
- **Advancing Palliative Care in Texas**, 1-4 p.m. CST Nov. 5 in Austin or via webinar. Free presentation. Register in person [here](#). Register for webinar [here](#). For more information, email Palliative_Care@hhsc.state.tx.us.

- **TNA Nurse Talks Empowerment Series – Substance Use Disorders and Mental Health in Nursing**, 6 p.m. CST Nov. 14. Information available [here](#). This web series is designed to bring more nurses into conversations and inform TNA’s decision-making processes and policy priorities. CE available for this session.

*If your NLAC organization/association is having an open event or you know of a relevant activity/event, please send the information to TNA Government Affairs Coordinator [Cathy White](#) for inclusion in upcoming issues of **Nursewatch**.*



**TEXASNURSE
PAC**

Help strengthen nursing’s voice and influence at the state Capitol with an investment in the Texas Nurse PAC today. **Invest** in your profession. **Invest** in your peers. [Invest in the Texas Nurse PAC today!](#)
