



NLAC Update

Welcome back! We hope everyone's been having a good summer!

Now that the legislative session is over and we've (hopefully) had a chance to recover and relax, it's time to get to work!

ALL the Texas House seats, and 15 Texas Senate seats are in play this election cycle. That gives Texas nurses a little over a year to engage current state lawmakers and the candidates who may win office in 2020, so that the health care concerns that affect nursing have support in the next Texas Legislature. If we want a successful session in 2021, we need to encourage our members to engage and educate their state lawmakers and candidates on nursing's legislative priorities during the interim.

NLAC will **NOT** meet in person again until Spring 2020. We will hold an **NLAC Virtual Meeting** to briefly review the past legislative session, share each organization's

legislative priorities as well as some tips and resources to inspire nursing grassroots legislative advocacy. Details are being finalized.

In the meantime, TNA's [NLAC](#) web page has some great information on this past session's legislative agenda, including the BON's [86th Regular Texas Legislative Report](#) so, please share the page with your members.

Capitol Brief: Summer Drama

by Kevin C. Stewart, II

As I'm sure many of you have heard by now, there is quite a bit of news coming out of the Texas House of Representatives. The controversy arose from a meeting that took place between House Speaker Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood) and a political activist named Michael Quinn Sullivan. Sullivan is the CEO of Empower Texans, a far-right political advocacy organization that has long sought media credentials in the House for its media arm, Texas Scorecard.

After the meeting, Sullivan claimed that Bonnen offered him media credentials in exchange for Empower targeting a list of 10 republicans during their elections. Initially, Bonnen claimed that these allegations were false, at which point Sullivan claimed that he had recorded the whole meeting. Sullivan then allowed a few Representatives to listen to the tape, who all corroborated his account.

Bonnen has since apologized publicly for the fiasco and has been meeting with his fellow House members to smooth things over. Some have accepted his apology, but others have not. The House General Investigating Committee held a special meeting to discuss the issue, and ultimately referred the matter to the Texas Rangers for a more thorough investigation.

It's unclear at this point how the dust will settle. Bonnen had what many consider a successful session. He got his major initiatives passed, and he seemed to work well with Lt. Governor Patrick and Governor Abbott. But this, along with what could be a tough election cycle for the GOP, may lead to a shakeup before next session.

Even without a shakeup, we know some faces will be changing. On the federal level, Ted Poe (R-Houston), Sam Johnson (R-Richardson), Jeb Hensarling (R-Dallas), Joe Barton (R-Ennis), and Lamar Smith (R-San Antonio) have all announced that they will not be seeking reelection. Rest assured that a number of state legislators are eyeing those seats and calculating their chances. On the state level, House Appropriations Chair, Dr. John Zerwas, as well as Representative Stickland, have also announced their retirement.

Looking ahead, September 1st is the day that many of last session's bills became effective. We are working closely with agencies as these bills are implemented and rules are adopted. We will keep you apprised of all these developments and more as the interim progresses.

Bookmark texastribune.org to get the latest political news!



Texas Register: Rules and Regulations

[August 23, 2019](#)

Texas Board of Nursing

22 TAC 217.2, Unprofessional Conduct. (PROPOSED) Due SB 37, passed in the 86th Legislative Session, the Board will be removing “failure to repay a student loan” as a disciplinable offense.

22 TAC 222.5, Prescriptive Authority Agreements. (PROPOSED) The Board is removing requirements for face-to-face meetings, as well as the language that allows quarterly meetings, pursuant to legislation passed in the HB 278 (86th).

[August 9, 2019](#)

Texas Medical Board

22 TAC 195.5, Physician Liability for Delegated Acts and Enforcement. (WITHDRAWN) This proposal would have added language requiring physicians to report providers to the TMB who are not otherwise licensed, certified, or regulated by the state. Such providers would include any unlicensed person sponsored by a physician or delegated to by a physician.

22 TAC 195.21, Delegation Related to Radiological Services. (WITHDRAWN) This rule would have prohibited physicians from delegating the reading and interpreting of radiological studies, and the rendering of diagnoses based on those studies.

[August 2, 2019](#)

Texas Board of Nursing

22 TAC 223.1, Fees. (ADOPTED) Due to legislation passed in the 86th Legislative Session, the Board has determined that it will need to raise licensed vocational nurse renewal fees by \$3, making the fee \$45; registered nurse fees by \$3, making the fee \$68; and advanced practice registered nurse fees by \$4, making the fee \$54. The amendments also clarify that more than one fee may apply depending on an

individual's situation, such as APRNs who must renew their APRN and RN license at the same time.

[July 5, 2019](#)

Texas Medical Board

22 TAC §193.8, Prescriptive Authority Agreements (PROPOSED) TMB has decided to repeal this rule entirely. They had initially discussed removing provisions of the rule that were merely restatements of the law, but then realized that the entire rule is superfluous.

22 TAC §193.17, Nonsurgical Medical Cosmetic Procedures (PROPOSED) The TMB has proposed an amendment to this rule. The amendment would require facilities that provide nonsurgical medical cosmetic procedures to post a notice concerning complaint procedures and the name of the delegating physician at that facility.<

Did you know ...

- The [Texas Register](#) is on the Texas [Secretary of State](#) website. You'll find **ALL** the rule proposals and adoptions from the Texas BON and other state regulatory agencies in the Texas Register, which is updated weekly on Fridays. Nursewatch will print pertinent updates to nursing rules and regulations but you can delve deeper into current and past issues on the site.
- **The S.O.S. website** is also where you can find the state's voting requirements, including the last day to register, when early voting in Texas begins and ends, and more. Make sure your members know where to find this important information. **Every American that is eligible to vote should be registered and encouraged to vote.** Local and state elections are especially impactful to our grassroots advocacy efforts so let's ensure our nurses are prepared and empowered to advocate for their profession.

Upcoming Events

- [TNA Nurse Talks Empowerment Series](#) – ongoing. Web series designed to bring more nurses into conversations and inform TNA's decision-making processes and policy priorities to ultimately benefit all Texas nurses. CE available for most sessions.
- [2019 TxANA Annual Convention](#) – September 27-29, 2019 in Plano.
- The [League of Women Voters of Texas](#) celebrates its **100-year anniversary** on October 19 in San Antonio. Details and registration [here](#).

If your NLAC organization/association is having an open event, please send the information to TNA Government Affairs Coordinator [Cathy White](#) for inclusion in

upcoming issues of **Nursewatch**.



Did you know that the Texas Medical Association spent \$1.5 million on Texas elections in the last election cycle alone? Help us combat TMA's influence at the state Capitol.

[Invest](#) in your profession. **[Invest](#)** in your peers. **[Invest](#)** in the Texas Nurse PAC today!

[Texas Nurses Association](#)

4807 Spicewood Springs Rd. Bldg 3 Austin, TX 78759
800.862.2022 | 512.452.0645



Click [here](#) to unsubscribe from this mailing list.

Powered by  **votervoice**
A FiscalNote Company