



## NLAC Update: AUGUST 2020

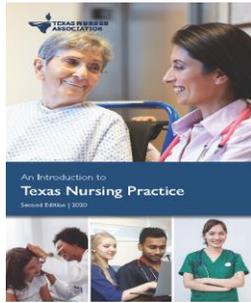
The 2020 General Election is right around the corner - are you and your members ready to vote for the candidates that will support nurses during the current COVID-19 health pandemic and into the future? Visit TNA's Nurse Action Center for links to ensure you're registered and to know what's on YOUR ballot in November.

### [The General Election is Nov. 3. Are you registered and ready to vote?](#)

NLAC met on July 30, for a regulatory, legislative and policy update from the Texas Board of Nursing, legislative staff and NLAC members. It was an informative discussion on the issues the nursing profession is considering for legislative action in the 87th Texas Legislature, which convenes Jan. 12, 2021.

**The next NLAC meeting, to develop the 2021 Nursing Legislative Agenda, is scheduled for October 27, 2020.** All Texas professional nursing organizations are invited to attend and join the 2021-2022 Nursing Legislative Agenda Coalition. Please email TNA Government Affairs Coordinator Catherine White at [cwhite@texasnurses.org](mailto:cwhite@texasnurses.org) for details and a meeting invitation. Join NLAC and amplify the voice of nursing at the state capitol! If ever there was a time, it's NOW!





Texas Nurses Association is currently taking preorders for its second edition of the *Introduction to the Texas Nursing Practice Act 2020* . Visit [TNA's online store](#) by **Aug. 31, 2020, to purchase a copy.**



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

## Capitol Brief Update

by Kevin C. Stewart, II

Now that emergency waivers and emergency rulemakings have slowed down, regulatory agencies and legislative committees are beginning to resume their pre-COVID operations. The Board of Nursing formally met recently and, while the meeting was conducted electronically, otherwise it was business as usual. Additionally, we now have more details about interim committee hearings and the legislative session.

### Interim Hearings

Many in the capitol community have been waiting patiently to see how the legislature will be conducting its interim hearings. In a typical even-numbered year, committees take testimony and develop recommendations for the upcoming session. These meetings have not been taking place, but the leadership of the House of Representatives recently released a memo outlining ways the committees may interact with the public.

1. Committee chairs may post updates and information on the House website
2. Committees may issue formal requests for information from agencies or stakeholders
3. Committees may host online events where all House members are invited to participate.

These unusual restrictions are in place because committees must comply with the rules of their respective chamber, and those rules can only be amended when the legislature is in session. In other words, these types of limitations will be in place until the House and Senate are able to meet and adopt new rules. In this new environment, there will still be opportunities to influence discussions at the capitol, but nursing organizations will have to watch the legislature closely and be prepared to act quickly when an opportunity arises.

### Legislative Session

Assuming there is no broadly available vaccine in time for the legislative session, it is likely that capitol access will be limited. Offices may prohibit “drop in” guests, witnesses during committee hearings may be staged at another location and called individually, and legislative days at the capitol may have to be canceled.

Many groups and organizations will have to put their agenda items on hold. The legislature will have less bandwidth, and with the holes left in the budget by the drop in oil prices, as well as the upcoming redistricting fight, many legislators may not be interested in taking up issues that don’t directly relate to disaster response.

The good news is, nurses are critical to the disaster response and, if there was ever a session to speak loudly about issues impacting your practice, this is it. With that being said – not all nursing issues are created equally. Agenda items that directly or tangentially relate to the state’s ability to respond to this disaster will have the best chance of success. Keep that in mind as you develop your agendas.

Please stay tuned! I suspect that this will be a pivotal session for nurses. We will continue providing updated information as it become available, and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about how your organization can maximize its effectiveness.



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## Texas Register: Rules and Regulations

[July 31, 2020](#)

## Health and Human Services Commission

### 30.14, Certification of Terminal Illness and Record Maintenance. (EMERGENCY)

Under existing rules, hospice physicians and APRNs must conduct a face-to-face assessment to recertify patients for hospice care. This emergency amendment allows physicians and APRNs to conduct those assessments using telemedicine.

#### Remember ...

- You can find the [Texas Register](#) on the Texas [Secretary of State](#) website, where ALL the rule proposals and adoptions from the Texas BON and other state regulatory agencies are updated weekly on Fridays and published. *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.

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## Upcoming Events

- [Texas Tribune Festival, A Virtual Experience, Sept. 1-30](#): Interviews, compelling sessions and insightful conversations – available live and on-demand – on how the coronavirus has affected the election cycle, the legislative session, education, health care and the economy – not to mention immigration, energy, criminal justice and redistricting, featuring state lawmakers and health, policy and political experts
- [Senate Health and Human Services Committee](#), meeting on Interim Charges, Sept. 9, 2020, Senate Chamber.
- **TNP 32nd Fall Conference Live Virtual**, Sept. 25-27, 2020. Conference schedule and registration available [here](#).
- **NLAC Fall Meeting**, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. CST October 27, 2020. Email Catherine White ([cwhite@texasnurses.org](mailto:cwhite@texasnurses.org)) for details.

*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*.*



Contribute to the Texas Nurse PAC today and strengthen nursing's influence with the Texas Legislature in 2021. There has never been a more important time to support nursing's efforts to engage and inform Texas legislators on issues and concerns of the profession. Just \$20 can make a **BIG**

difference during this election season! [Invest](#) in your profession. [Invest](#) in your peers.  
[Invest in the Texas Nurse PAC today!](#)

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[Texas Nurses Association](#)

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

