



## NLAC Update: JULY 2020

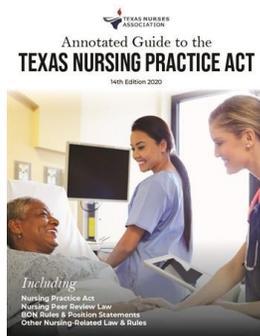
While 2020 has been a roller coaster of uncertainty, the calendar and the thermometer will both confirm, we are in the midst of a Texas summer. Make sure to make time for your mental health and take a moment to enjoy the summer the best you can amidst the new normal.

### The Texas Primary Runoff and Special Election takes place July 14.

If you're registered to vote and didn't take advantage of early voting, available through Friday, July 10; then Tuesday, July 14, 2020, is your day to get to the polls and make your voice heard!

A meeting poll to determine the date of NLAC's next virtual meeting discussion of the 2021 Nursing Legislative Agenda was recently sent to current NLAC representatives. Once the meeting has been set, an invitation will be sent, along with directions to submit materials for the meeting. Please send any questions you have to Catherine White at [cwhite@texasnurses.org](mailto:cwhite@texasnurses.org).





Texas Nurses Association is currently taking preorders for its *Annotated Guide to the Texas Nursing Practice Act, 14th Edition 2020* (Hard copy + PDF). Visit [TNA's online store](#) by July 31, 2020, to purchase a hard copy of the publication (+ complimentary PDF version). Starting August 1, only the PDF version will be available for purchase.



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

## Capitol Brief Update

by Kevin C. Stewart, II

### Waiver Updates

We have heard from nurses across the state that the waivers and exemptions that the Governor and agencies have put in place have been extremely helpful. We are working hard to ensure these waivers are continued for as long as possible. As of today, TDI has extended its telemedicine parity rule, now set to expire on Sept. 12. The Texas Medicaid telemedicine waivers have also been extended, and they are now set to expire July 31.

We will continue providing these updates, and if you have questions about a specific emergency rule or waiver, most agencies have COVID-specific web pages that provide additional information.

### Elections

In the last update, I mentioned that the pandemic has created extremely unique opportunities to meet with legislators virtually, as they would otherwise be busy campaigning across their district. Some candidates, like Senator Zaffirini, are hosting virtual town halls, while others, like Senator Buckingham, have been using

videoconferencing services to communicate directly. If you have time to meet with your legislator, contact them or their staff to set up a virtual meeting. Meeting in this context, while unorthodox, can create a memorable connection between you and the legislator.

### Legislative Session

Looking ahead, there is still no information on what the next legislative session will look like. House and Senate leadership are working through potential ways to protect members and the public, but there is always a chance that the session will be truncated in some way. Some legislators share a home with someone who is immunocompromised, others are struggling to keep their business afloat. It will be a challenge to find a solution that is agreeable to everyone involved. However, as more information becomes available, we will absolutely share that in an update.



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

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## Texas Register: Rules and Regulations

\* No rule updates in June

### 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

- **Early Voting Ends! - July 10, 2020** - [Find Your Polling Place](#)

- **Texas Primary Runoff and Special Election - Tuesday, July 14, 2020**  
- If you didn't vote early, today's the day. Make sure you know [What's on the Ballot?](#) then exercise your American right to vote and make your voice heard in state governance.
- [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](#).
- [Texas Tribune Events](#), ongoing: interviews, conferences and events featuring state lawmakers and health, policy and political experts.

*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. 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](#)

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