



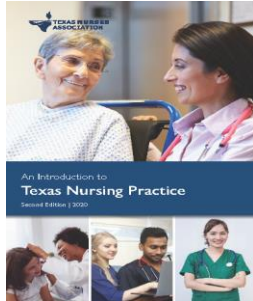
## **NLAC Update: SEPTEMBER 2020**

The 2020 General Election is Nov. 3, with early voting starting in 43 days on Oct. 13. Make sure you are prepared to vote and have the necessary information to make informed decisions. In addition to drafting our respective legislative agendas and navigating a "new normal" of interim session activity in the time of coronavirus, we want our members to be informed on the candidates running for office and registered to vote in this important election.

The voices of Texas nurses have never been more critical than in the current pandemic. To that end, **Texas Nurses Association and Texas Nurse Practitioners are hosting a virtual voter information session, scheduled for 12:30 p.m. CST Sept. 17 via Zoom.** The information session will include discussion about changes for the upcoming election, the mail-in ballot process, voter registration, early voting locations, where a voter can go to identify what is on the ballot and how to vote safely in November.

**NLAC will meet to develop the 2021 Nursing Legislative Agenda Oct. 27, 2020.** Please email TNA Government Affairs Coordinator Catherine White at [cwhite@texasnurses.org](mailto:cwhite@texasnurses.org) for details.

Enrollment for 2021-2022 NLAC membership begins in November. The 2021 Texas Legislature could be pivotal for addressing important nursing concerns. There is strength and influence in numbers. Join NLAC, and encourage other Texas professional nursing organizations/associations that aren't yet NLAC members, to join us and help 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 **Sept. 18, 2020, to purchase a copy.**



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

---

## Capitol Brief Update

by Kevin C. Stewart, II

The legislature is finally gearing up for the upcoming legislative session! While we still do not have concrete details on how hearings and floor votes will take place, committees have started formally collecting information from stakeholders so that they can develop their interim committee reports. While typically important, these reports are even more crucial this year since committees are undecided about hosting hearings.

On that note, certain House committees have released Requests for Information (RFI) from stakeholders that specifically relate to nursing practice and education. For example, the House Select Committee on Statewide Health Care Costs released an [RFI](#) about competition in provider markets and workforce capacity distribution. House Human Services sent out an [RFI](#) on how the state can save money through the Medicaid program. Finally, House Higher Education released an [RFI](#) asking about differences in quality between traditional nursing programs and an online program without a clinical component.

Again, because opportunities for input will be limited, at least during the interim, it is important to have your voices heard through the RFI process. We suspect that legislators will be using these reports to develop legislation for the upcoming session. Therefore, it is critical that legislators hear from nurses on these issues. TNA staff would love to hear from organizations who are planning to submit comments and if there is any way we can assist you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

This will be an unusual session but, if we can work together, we can amplify the voice of nurses and continue to advance the profession.



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

---

## Texas Register: Rules and Regulations

[August 21, 2020](#)

Texas Board of Nursing

**217.4, Requirements for Initial Licensure by Examination for Nurses Who Graduate from Nursing Education Programs Outside of United States' Jurisdiction (ADOPTED)** Prior to adoption, applicants who received their degree from a school outside of the United States must have had their coursework evaluated by one of three third-party Credential Evaluation Services (CESs). This adoption removes the language specifying which CESs applicants may use and replaces it with standards that a CES must meet. The proposal was adopted without changes.

**217.5, Temporary License and Endorsement (ADOPTED)** This adoption makes the same changes that Rule 217.4 made, but it applies to applicants from other states or Canada. Also, prior to adoption, individuals seeking a license through endorsement, who had not taken the NCLEX or practiced nursing within the prior four years, must have completed a jurisprudence prep course or workshop, in addition to the required refresher course, orientation or program of study. This adoption eliminates the requirement for a prep course or workshop, as the content is often redundant given the requirement to do a refresher course. The proposal was adopted without changes.

### 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.

---

## Upcoming Events

- [Senate Health and Human Services Committee](#), Sept. 9, 2020, Senate Chamber. Meeting on Interim Charges.
- **Texas Nurses Voter Information Session, 12:30 p.m. CST Thursday, Sept. 17, 2020**, via Zoom. TNA and TNP host a voter information session and panel discussion on the upcoming election for nurses. Registration/details available [here](#).
- **Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition Meeting**, Sept. 24, 2020. [Registration](#) required.
- **TNP 32nd Fall Conference Live Virtual**, Sept. 25-27, 2020. Conference schedule and registration available [here](#).
- [Texas Tribune Festival](#), A Virtual Experience, through Sept. 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.
- **Last Day to Register for 2020 General Election, October 5, 2020**: [Ensure you're registered to vote](#) in the Year of the Nurse! Make YOUR voice heard in the Time of coronavirus - for yourself, your peers and your patients!
- **Texas Early Voting, October 13-30, 2020**: Avoid election day crowds and possible exposure to COVID-19 and vote early. Click the link to ensure you're registered and find early voting locations in your area.
- **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.



- **2020 General Election, November 3, 2020:** Note important dates, make sure you're registered to vote, find out what's on the ballot then exercise your civic duty!

*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 **Catherine 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!](#)**

*Donations to TexasNURSE PAC are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal income tax purposes.*

---

**[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