

## Background

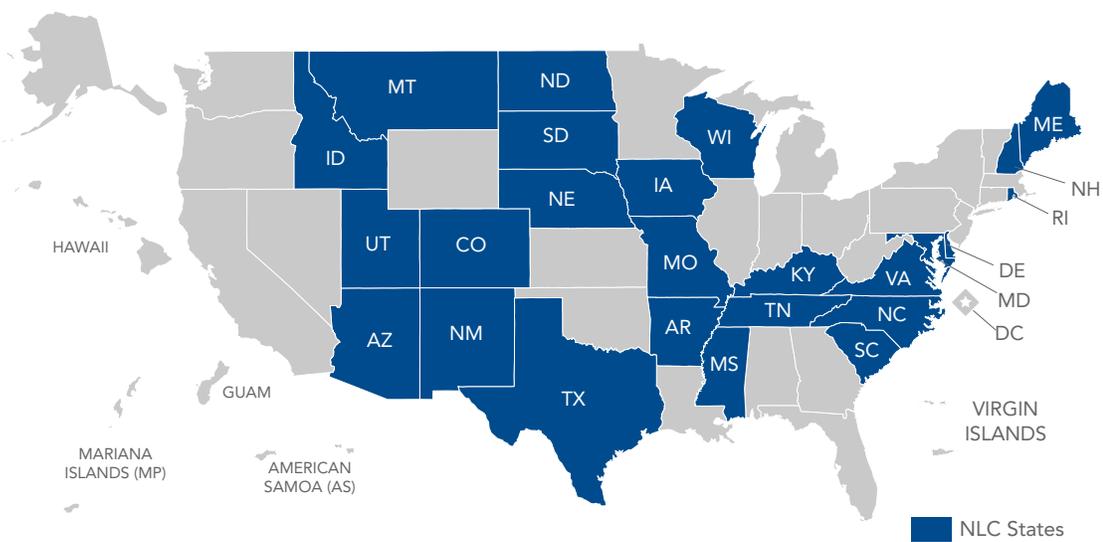
- The NLC allows a nurse (RN and LPN/VN) to have one compact license in the nurse's primary state of residence (the home state) and to practice in other compact states (remote states). The nurse must follow the nurse practice act of each state (visit [www.ncsbn.org/npa.htm](http://www.ncsbn.org/npa.htm) to find your state's nurse practice act). The nurse could be subject to the discipline process in the states of practice.
- A compact license permits practice (physically and telephonically/electronically) across state lines in NLC states, unless the nurse is under discipline or a restriction.
- Advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) are not included in this compact. APRNs must apply for licensure in each state of practice.

## Multistate and Single-state Licenses

- Eligibility for a multistate license requires that a nurse legally reside in a compact state and declare that state as the primary state of residence. Applying for a compact license does not require completing an additional application for licensure.
- A nurse whose primary state of residence is a noncompact state is not eligible for a compact license.
- Upon being issued a compact license, any additional active compact licenses are made inactive because a nurse can only hold one multistate license.
- A nurse licensed in a compact state must meet the licensure requirements (including continuing education, if applicable) of the home state.
- A nurse with an active compact license seeking to practice in another compact state on a temporary basis does not need to complete any applications or pay any fees. The home state license is accepted in all compact states.
- A nurse whose primary state of residence is a noncompact state who applies for a license in a compact state is issued a single-state license.

## Our Mission

The Nurse Licensure Compact advances public protection and access to care through the mutual recognition of one state-based license that is enforced locally and recognized nationally.



## Multistate and Single-state Licenses, continued

- A nurse must hold a separate license in each noncompact state to practice in that state.
- While under disciplinary action, multistate privileges may be removed and the nurse's practice may be restricted to the home state.
- It's the responsibility of the nurse to notify the employer of any action taken by a board of nursing (BON) against his or her license or privilege to practice.
- The NCLEX® Examination can be taken in any state convenient to the applicant. The results will be directed to the state BON where the nurse applied for authorization to test (ATT) and licensure. Graduates applying for a license who legally reside in a compact state can only apply for licensure with the home state BON.

## Definitions

- **Compact:** An interstate agreement between two or more states established for the purpose of remedying a particular problem of multistate concern. (*Black's Law Dictionary*)
- **Compact State:** Any state that has adopted the NLC.
- **Home State:** The compact state that serves as the nurse's primary state of residence.
- **Remote State:** A compact state other than the home state where the patient is located at the time nursing care is provided or, in the case of the practice of nursing not involving a patient, a compact state where the recipient of nursing practice is located.
- **Primary State of Residence:** The state (also known as the home state) in which a nurse declares a primary residence for legal purposes. Sources used to verify a nurse's primary residence may include driver's license, federal income tax return or voter registration.
- **Nursys®:** This database ([www.nursys.com](http://www.nursys.com)) provides licensure and disciplinary information of all licensed RNs and LPN/VNs, as contributed by compact states. The public can access Nursys for free to look up a nurse's license and discipline status.

## Requirements when a Nurse Moves

- When a nurse moves from a compact state to a noncompact state, the compact license is changed to a single-state license. The nurse must apply for licensure by endorsement in the new state of residence.
- When a nurse moves from a noncompact state to a compact state, the nurse must apply for licensure by endorsement in the new state of residence. It's recommended to start the application process prior to the move. A new compact license will not be issued until a signed Declaration of Primary State of Residence form is provided, there is proof of residence (in some states) and the nurse meets all licensing requirements.
- When permanently relocating to another compact state, a nurse must apply for licensure by endorsement and complete the Declaration of Primary State of Residence form for the new home state. The nurse should notify the former compact state BON that he or she is no longer a resident. The nurse can practice on the former license for up to 90 days, which starts when the new state determines that the nurse is a resident of the state. It's recommended that the nurse starts the application process prior to the move.
  - Note: States are in the process of implementing an amended rule; a state may either permit a nurse to practice on his or her former license for 30 or 90 days depending on the current rule status (visit [www.ncsbn.org/nlc](http://www.ncsbn.org/nlc) to view the implementation table). The number of days is based on the rule in effect in the new state.
- A nurse on a visa from another country applying for a license in a compact state may declare either the country of origin or the compact state as the primary state of residence. If an international location is declared the primary state of residence, the applicant is limited to a single-state license.

For more information about the NLC, visit [www.ncsbn.org/nlc](http://www.ncsbn.org/nlc) or email [nursecompact@ncsbn.org](mailto:nursecompact@ncsbn.org).