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### **What is the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC)?**

- An interstate compact – a statutory agreement between two or more states. (The NLC consisted of 25 states)
- Allows nurses to have a multistate license that permits them to practice in other member states, subject to each state's practice laws. (All licenses are multistate licenses unless disciplinary action precludes)
- Reduces regulatory requirements by eliminating the necessity to obtain a license in each state.
- Removes burdensome expenses for both nurses and the organizations that employ them.
- Increases access to care while maintaining public protection.
- Allows nurses to practice, both physically and electronically (telehealth), in multiple states
- Allows nurses to quickly cross state borders and provide vital services in the event of an emergency.
- NLC has been operational and successful for 17 years.
- Wisconsin has been a member of the Nurse Licensure Compact since 2000.

### **What is the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC)?**

- The eNLC is an updated version of the NLC. Continues the benefits of the NLC.
- Provides option to have a single state or multistate license.
- Multistate nurses meet uniform licensure requirements (ULR)<sup>1</sup> for all states. The ULR are:
  - Meets licensure requirements in the state of residency.
  - Graduates from a qualifying education program.
  - Passed the NCLEX-RN or NCLEX-PN exam or predecessor exam.
  - Have no active discipline on a license.
  - Submits to a fingerprint criminal background check and has no state or federal felony conviction.
  - Not currently enrolled in an alternative program.
  - Has a valid social security number.
- Grandfathers all nurses holding a NLC multistate license on July 20, 2017.
- Administration of compact changes from Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators (NLCA) to Commission of Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators (Interstate Commission)
- Creates Rulemaking efficiency. NLCA had the authority to develop compact rules (without the public's ability to comment or a public hearing) which the NLC required each state to adopt as developed. Under the eNLC, the Interstate Commission will promulgate rules.
  - Notice of proposed rulemaking will be published in the Wisconsin Administrative Register
  - Comments may be submitted and public hearing held on proposed rules

### **What is the impact on Wisconsin?**

- States<sup>2</sup> which adopted the eNLC will be withdrawing from the NLC on January 20, 2018. After January 20, 2018:
  - Wisconsin nurses will no longer be able to practice, physically or electronically, in these states without obtaining a license in that state.
  - Nurses from these states will no longer be able to practice, physically or electronically, in Wisconsin without obtaining a Wisconsin license.
- After January 20, 2018 the only states remaining in the NLC will be Colorado, New Mexico, Rhode Island and Wisconsin.
- If Wisconsin enacts the eNLC prior to January 20, 2018, there is a seamless transition for all grandfathered nurses (not required to obtain additional licenses).

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<sup>1</sup> Nurses not meeting the uniform licensure requirements can be issued a single state license to practice in Wisconsin.

<sup>2</sup> Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Virginia.