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SENATE BILL No. 396

By Senator Emler (By Request)

8-22

AN ACT creating the nurse licensure compact; directing the governor to
enter into a compact; approving and specifying terms of the compact;
amending K.S.A. 65-1114 and 65-1120 and K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 65-1124
and repealing the existing sections.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:
New Section 1. This article shall be known and may be cited as the

New Section 1. This article shall be known and may be cited as the "nurse licensure compact".

New Sec. 2. The Kansas legislature hereby approves and ratifies, and the governor shall enter into a compact on behalf of the state of Kansas with any of the states of the United States or other jurisdictions legally joining therein, in the form substantially as follows:

ARTICLÉ I

Declaration and Purpose

- (a) The party states find that:
- (1) The health and safety of the public are affected by the degree of compliance with and the effectiveness of enforcement activities related to state nurse licensure laws;
- (2) violations of nurse licensure and other laws regulating the practice of nursing may result in injury or harm to the public;
- (3) the expanded mobility of nurses and the use of advanced communication technologies as part of our nation's healthcare delivery system require greater coordination and cooperation among states in the areas of nurse licensure and regulation;
- (4) new practice modalities and technology make compliance with individual state nurse licensure laws difficult and complex;
- (5) the current system of duplicative licensure for nurses practicing in multiple states is cumbersome and redundant to both nurses and states.
 - (b) The general purposes of this compact are to:
- 39 (1) Facilitate the states' responsibility to protect the public's health 40 and safety;
 - (2) ensure and encourage the cooperation of party states in the areas of nurse licensure and regulation;
- 43 (3) facilitate the exchange of information between party states in the

areas of nurse regulation, investigation and adverse actions;

- (4) promote compliance with the laws governing the practice of nursing in each jurisdiction;
- (5) invest all party states with the authority to hold a nurse accountable for meeting all state practice laws in the state in which the patient is located at the time care is rendered through the mutual recognition of party state licenses.

ARTICLE II Definitions

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- (a) As used in this compact:
- (1) "Adverse action" means a home or remote state action;
- (2) "alternative program" means a voluntary, nondisciplinary monitoring program approved by a nurse licensing board;
- (3) "coordinated licensure information system" means an integrated process for collecting, storing and sharing information on nurse licensure and enforcement activities related to nurse licensure laws, which is administered by a nonprofit organization composed of and controlled by state nurse licensing boards;
 - (4) "current significant investigative information" means:
- (A) Investigative information that a licensing board, after a preliminary inquiry that includes notification and an opportunity for the nurse to respond if required by state law, has reason to believe is not groundless and, if proved true, would indicate more than a minor infraction; or
- (B) investigative information that indicates that the nurse represents an immediate threat to public health and safety regardless of whether the nurse has been notified and had an opportunity to respond.
- (5) "Home state" means the party state that is the nurse's primary state of residence:
- (6) "home state action" means any administrative, civil, equitable or criminal action permitted by the home state's laws that is imposed on a nurse by the home state's licensing board or other authority including actions against an individual's license such as: Revocation, suspension, probation or any other action that affects a nurse's authorization to practice;
- (7) "licensing board" means a party state's regulatory body responsible for issuing nurse licenses;
- (8) "multistate licensure privilege" means current, official authority from a remote state permitting the practice of nursing as either a registered nurse or a licensed practical/vocational nurse in such party state. All party states have the authority, in accordance with existing state due process law, to take actions against the nurse's privilege such as: Revocation, suspension, probation or any other action that affects a nurse's authorization to practice;

- (9) "nurse" means a registered nurse or licensed practical/vocational nurse, as those terms are defined by each party's state practice laws;
 - (10) "party state" means any state that has adopted this compact;
 - (11) "remote state" means a party state, other than the home state:
- $\left(A\right)$. Where the patient is located at the time nursing care is provided; or
- (B) in the case of the practice of nursing not involving a patient, in such party state where the recipient of nursing practice is located.
 - (12) "Remote state action" means:
 - (A) Any administrative, civil, equitable or criminal action permitted by a remote state's laws that is imposed on a nurse by the remote state's licensing board or other authority, including actions against an individual's multistate licensure privilege to practice in the remote state; and
 - (B) cease and desist and other injunctive or equitable orders issued by remote states or the licensing boards thereof.
 - (13) "State" means a state, territory or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;
 - (14) "state practice laws" means those individual party's state laws and regulations that govern the practice of nursing, define the scope of nursing practice and create the methods and grounds for imposing discipline;
 - (15) "state practice laws" does not include the initial qualifications for licensure or requirements necessary to obtain and retain a license, except for qualifications or requirements of the home state.

ARTICLE III

General Provisions and Jurisdiction

- (a) A license to practice registered nursing issued by a home state to a resident in that state will be recognized by each party state as authorizing a multistate licensure privilege to practice as a registered nurse in such party state. A license to practice licensed practical/vocational nursing issued by a home state to a resident in that state will be recognized by each party state as authorizing a multistate licensure privilege to practice as a licensed practical/vocational nurse in such party state. In order to obtain or retain a license, an applicant must meet the home state's qualifications for licensure and license renewal as well as all other applicable state laws.
- (b) Party states may, in accordance with state due process laws, limit or revoke the multistate licensure privilege of any nurse to practice in their state and may take any other actions under their applicable state laws necessary to protect the health and safety of their citizens. If a party state takes such action, it shall promptly notify the administrator of the coordinated licensure information system. The administrator of the coordinated licensure information system shall promptly notify the home

state of any such actions by remote states.

- (c) Every nurse practicing in a party state must comply with the state practice laws of the state in which the patient is located at the time care is rendered. In addition, the practice of nursing is not limited to patient care, but shall include all nursing practice as defined by the state practice laws of a party state. The practice of nursing will subject a nurse to the jurisdiction of the nurse licensing board and the courts, as well as the laws, in that party state.
- (d) This compact does not affect additional requirements imposed by states for advanced practice registered nursing. However, a multistate licensure privilege to practice registered nursing granted by a party state shall be recognized by other party states as a license to practice registered nursing if one is required by state law as a precondition for qualifying for advanced practice registered nurse authorization.
- (e) Individuals not residing in a party state shall continue to be able to apply for nurse licensure as provided for under the laws of each party state. However, the license granted to these individuals will not be recognized as granting the privilege to practice nursing in any other party state unless explicitly agreed to by that party state.

ARTICLE IV

Applications for Licensure in a Party State

- (a) Upon application for a license, the licensing board in a party state shall ascertain, through the coordinated licensure information system, whether the applicant has ever held, or is the holder of, a license issued by any other state, whether there are any restrictions on the multistate licensure privilege, and whether any other adverse action by any state has been taken against the license.
- (b) A nurse in a party state shall hold licensure in only one party state at a time, issued by the home state.
- (c) A nurse who intends to change primary state of residence may apply for licensure in the new home state in advance of such change. However, new licenses will not be issued by a party state until after a nurse provides evidence of change in primary state of residence satisfactory to the new home state's licensing board.
 - (d) When a nurse changes primary state of residence by:
- (1) Moving between two party states, and obtains a license from the new home state, the license from the former home state is no longer valid;
- (2) moving from a nonparty state to a party state, and obtains a license from the new home state, the individual state license issued by the nonparty state is not affected and will remain in full force if so provided by the laws of the nonparty state;
- (3) moving from a party state to a nonparty state, the license issued

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 by the prior home state converts to an individual state license, valid only in the former home state, without the multistate licensure privilege to practice in other party states.

ARTICLE V

Adverse Actions

In addition to the General Provisions described in Article III, the following provisions apply:

- (a) The licensing board of a remote state shall promptly report to the administrator of the coordinated licensure information system any remote state actions, including the factual and legal basis for such action, if known. The licensing board of a remote state shall also promptly report any significant current investigative information yet to result in a remote state action. The administrator of the coordinated licensure information system shall promptly notify the home state of any such reports.
- (b) The licensing board of a party state shall have the authority to complete any pending investigations for a nurse who changes primary state of residence during the course of such investigations. It shall also have the authority to take appropriate action and shall promptly report the conclusions of such investigations to the administrator of the coordinated licensure information system. The administrator of the coordinated licensure information system shall promptly notify the new home state of any such actions.
- (c) A remote state may take adverse action affecting the multistate licensure privilege to practice within that party state. However, only the home state shall have the power to impose adverse action against the license issued by the home state.
- (d) For purposes of imposing adverse action, the licensing board of the home state shall give the same priority and effect to reported conduct received from a remote state as it would if such conduct had occurred within the home state. In so doing, it shall apply its own state laws to determine appropriate action.
- (e) The home state may take adverse action based on the factual findings of the remote state, so long as each state follows its own procedures for imposing such adverse action.
- (f) Nothing in this compact shall override a party state's decision that participation in an alternative program may be used in lieu of licensure action and that such participation shall remain nonpublic if required by the party state's laws. Party states must require nurses who enter any alternative programs to agree not to practice in any other party state during the term of the alternative program without prior authorization from such other party state.

ARTICLE VI

Additional Authorities Invested in Party State Nurse Licensing Boards

- (a) Notwithstanding any other powers, party state nurse licensing boards shall have the authority to:
- (1) If otherwise permitted by state law, recover from the affected nurse the costs of investigations and disposition of cases resulting from any adverse action taken against that nurse;
- (2) issue subpoenas for both hearings and investigations that require the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of evidence. Subpoenas issued by a nurse licensing board in a party state for the attendance and testimony of witnesses, or the production of evidence from another party state shall be enforced in the latter state by any court of competent jurisdiction, according to the practice and procedure of that court applicable to subpoenas issued in proceedings pending before it. The issuing authority shall pay any witness fees, travel expenses, mileage and other fees required by the service statutes of the state where the witnesses or evidence are located;
- (3) issue cease and desist orders to limit or revoke a nurse's authority to practice in their state;
- (4) promulgate uniform rules and regulations as provided for in Article VIII (c).

ARTICLE VII

Coordinated Licensure Information System

- (a) All party states shall participate in a cooperative effort to create a coordinated database of all licensed registered nurses and licensed practical/vocational nurses. This system will include information on the licensure and disciplinary history of each nurse, as contributed by party states, to assist in the coordination of nurse licensure and enforcement efforts.
- (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all party states' licensing boards shall promptly report adverse actions, actions against multistate licensure privileges, any current significant investigative information yet to result in adverse action, denials of applications and the reasons for such denials to the coordinated licensure information system.
- (c) Current significant investigative information shall be transmitted through the coordinated licensure information system only to party state licensing boards.
- (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all party states' licensing boards contributing information to the coordinated licensure information system may designate information that may not be shared with nonparty states or disclosed to other entities or individuals without the express permission of the contributing state.
- (e) Any personally identifiable information obtained by a party state's licensing board from the coordinated licensure information system may not be shared with nonparty states or disclosed to other entities or individuals except to the extent permitted by the laws of the party state con-

1 tributing the information.

- (f) Any information contributed to the coordinated licensure information system that is subsequently required to be expunged by the laws of the party state contributing that information, shall also be expunged from the coordinated licensure information system.
- (g) The compact administrators, acting jointly with each other and in consultation with the administrator of the coordinated licensure information system, shall formulate necessary and proper procedures for the identification, collection and exchange of information under this compact.

ARTICLE VIII

Compact Administration and Interchange of Information

- (a) The head of the nurse licensing board, or such head's designee, of each party state shall be the administrator of this compact for the state.
- (b) The compact administrator of each party state shall furnish to the compact administrator of each other party state any information and documents including, but not limited to, a uniform data set of investigations, identifying information, licensure data and disclosable alternative program participation information to facilitate the administration of this compact.
- (c) Compact administrators shall have the authority to develop uniform rules to facilitate and coordinate implementation of this compact. These uniform rules shall be adopted by party states, under the authority invested under Article VI(a)(iv).

ARTICLE IX

Immunity

No party state or the officers, employees or agents of a party state's nurse licensing board who act in accordance with the provisions of this compact shall be liable on account of any act or omission in good faith while engaged in the performance of their duties under this compact. Good faith in this article shall not include willful misconduct, gross negligence or recklessness.

ARTICLE X

Entry into Force, Withdrawal and Amendment

- (a) This compact shall enter into force and become effective as to any state when it has been enacted into the laws of that state. Any party state may withdraw from this compact by enacting a statute repealing the same, but no such withdrawal shall take effect until six months after the withdrawing state has given notice of the withdrawal to the executive heads of all other party states.
- (b) No withdrawal shall affect the validity or applicability by the licensing boards of states remaining party to the compact of any report of adverse action occurring prior to the withdrawal.
 - (c) Nothing contained in this compact shall be construed to invalidate

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or prevent any nurse licensure agreement or other cooperative arrangement between a party state and a nonparty state that is made in accordance with the other provisions of this compact.

(d) This compact may be amended by the party states. No amendment to this compact shall become effective and binding upon the party states unless and until it is enacted into the laws of all party states.

ARTICLE XI

Construction and Severability

- This compact shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes thereof. The provisions of this compact shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence or provision of this compact is declared to be contrary to the constitution of any party state or of the United States or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this compact and the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby. If this compact shall be held contrary to the constitution of any state party, the compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining party states and in full force and effect as to the party state affected as to all severable matters.
- (b) In the event party states find a need for settling disputes arising under this compact:
- The party states may submit the issues in dispute to an arbitration panel that will be comprised of an individual appointed by the compact administrator in the home state; an individual appointed by the compact administrator in the remote state or states involved; and an individual mutually agreed upon by the compact administrators of all the party states involved in the dispute;
- (2) the decision of a majority of the arbitrators shall be final and binding.
- New Sec. 3. The board shall administer the provisions of the nurse licensure compact pursuant to section 2. Before recognizing a nurse license from another state that is party to the nurse licensure compact, the board shall determine that the qualifications for a nursing license in the remote state are substantially equivalent to, or more stringent than, the minimum qualifications for issuance of a Kansas license under the Kansas nurse practice act.
- Sec. 4. K.S.A. 65-1114 is hereby amended to read as follows: 65-1114. (a) It shall be unlawful for any person:
- To practice or to offer to practice professional nursing in this state; or
- to use any title, abbreviation, letters, figures, sign, card or device to indicate that any person is a registered professional nurse, unless such 42 person has been duly licensed under the provisions of this act or holds a

license in another state and is practicing in this state pursuant to the nurse
 licensure compact; or

- (3) to practice or offer to practice practical nursing in this state; or
- (4) to use any title, abbreviation, letters, figures, sign, card or device to indicate that any person is a licensed practical nurse, unless such person has been duly licensed under the provisions of this act or holds a license in another state and is practicing in this state pursuant to the nurse licensure compact.
 - (b) It shall be unlawful for any person:
- (1) To practice or offer to practice as an advanced registered nurse practitioner in this state; or
- (2) to use any title, abbreviation, letters, figures, sign, card or device to indicate that any person is an advanced registered nurse practitioner, unless such person has been duly issued a certificate of qualification as an advanced registered nurse practitioner under the Kansas nurse practice act.
- Sec. 5. K.S.A. 65-1120 is hereby amended to read as follows: 65-1120. (a) *Grounds for disciplinary actions*. The board may deny, revoke, limit or suspend any license, certificate of qualification or authorization to practice nursing as a registered professional nurse, as a licensed practical nurse, as an advanced registered nurse practitioner or as a registered nurse anesthetist that is issued by the board or applied for under this act or may publicly or privately censure a licensee or holder of a certificate of qualification or authorization, if the applicant, licensee or holder of a certificate of qualification or authorization is found after hearing:
- (1) To be guilty of fraud or deceit in practicing nursing or in procuring or attempting to procure a license to practice nursing;
- (2) to have been guilty of a felony or to have been guilty of a misdemeanor involving an illegal drug offense unless the applicant or licensee establishes sufficient rehabilitation to warrant the public trust, except that notwithstanding K.S.A. 74-120 no license, certificate of qualification or authorization to practice nursing as a licensed professional nurse, as a licensed practical nurse, as an advanced registered nurse practitioner or registered nurse anesthetist shall be granted to a person with a felony conviction for a crime against persons as specified in article 34 of chapter 21 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated and acts amendatory thereof or supplemental thereto;
- (3) to have committed an act of professional incompetency as defined in subsection (e);
- (4) to be unable to practice with skill and safety due to current abuse of drugs or alcohol;
- 42 (5) to be a person who has been adjudged in need of a guardian or conservator, or both, under the act for obtaining a guardian or conser-

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vator, or both, and who has not been restored to capacity under that act;

- (6) to be guilty of unprofessional conduct as defined by rules and regulations of the board;
- (7) to have willfully or repeatedly violated the provisions of *the nurse licensure compact or* the Kansas nurse practice act or any rules and regulations adopted pursuant to that act, including K.S.A. 65-1114 and 65-1122 and amendments thereto:
- (8) to have a license to practice nursing as a registered nurse or as a practical nurse denied, revoked, limited or suspended, or to be publicly or privately censured, by a licensing authority of another state, agency of the United States government, territory of the United States or country or to have other disciplinary action taken against the applicant or licensee by a licensing authority of another state, agency of the United States government, territory of the United States or country. A certified copy of the record or order of public or private censure, denial, suspension, limitation, revocation or other disciplinary action of the licensing authority of another state, agency of the United States government, territory of the United States or country shall constitute prima facie evidence of such a fact for purposes of this paragraph (8); or
- (9) to have assisted suicide in violation of K.S.A. 21-3406 and amendments thereto as established by any of the following:
- (A) A copy of the record of criminal conviction or plea of guilty for a felony in violation of K.S.A. 21-3406 and amendments thereto.
- (B) A copy of the record of a judgment of contempt of court for violating an injunction issued under K.S.A. 2002 Supp. 60-4404 and amendments thereto.
- (C) A copy of the record of a judgment assessing damages under K.S.A. 2002 Supp. 60-4405 and amendments thereto.
- (b) Proceedings. Upon filing of a sworn complaint with the board charging a person with having been guilty of any of the unlawful practices specified in subsection (a), two or more members of the board shall investigate the charges, or the board may designate and authorize an employee or employees of the board to conduct an investigation. After investigation, the board may institute charges. If an investigation, in the opinion of the board, reveals reasonable grounds for believing the applicant or licensee is guilty of the charges, the board shall fix a time and place for proceedings, which shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas administrative procedure act.
- (c) Witnesses. No person shall be excused from testifying in any proceedings before the board under this act or in any civil proceedings under this act before a court of competent jurisdiction on the ground that such testimony may incriminate the person testifying, but such testimony shall not be used against the person for the prosecution of any crime under

the laws of this state except the crime of perjury as defined in K.S.A. 21-3805 and amendments thereto.

- (d) Costs. If final agency action of the board in a proceeding under this section is adverse to the applicant or licensee, the costs of the board's proceedings shall be charged to the applicant or licensee as in ordinary civil actions in the district court, but if the board is the unsuccessful party, the costs shall be paid by the board. Witness fees and costs may be taxed by the board according to the statutes relating to procedure in the district court. All costs accrued by the board, when it is the successful party, and which the attorney general certifies cannot be collected from the applicant or licensee shall be paid from the board of nursing fee fund. All moneys collected following board proceedings shall be credited in full to the board of nursing fee fund.
- (e) Professional incompetency defined. As used in this section, "professional incompetency" means:
- (1) One or more instances involving failure to adhere to the applicable standard of care to a degree which constitutes gross negligence, as determined by the board;
- (2) repeated instances involving failure to adhere to the applicable standard of care to a degree which constitutes ordinary negligence, as determined by the board; or
- (3) a pattern of practice or other behavior which demonstrates a manifest incapacity or incompetence to practice nursing.
- (f) Criminal justice information. The board upon request shall receive from the Kansas bureau of investigation such criminal history record information relating to arrests and criminal convictions as necessary for the purpose of determining initial and continuing qualifications of licensees of and applicants for licensure by the board.
- Sec. 6. K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 65-1124 is hereby amended to read as follows: 65-1124.No provisions of this law shall be construed as prohibiting:
 - (a) Gratuitous nursing by friends or members of the family;
 - (b) the incidental care of the sick by domestic servants or persons primarily employed as housekeepers;
 - (c) caring for the sick in accordance with tenets and practices of any church or religious denomination which teaches reliance upon spiritual means through prayer for healing;
 - (d) nursing assistance in the case of an emergency;
 - (e) the practice of nursing by students as part of a clinical course offered through a school of professional or practical nursing or program of advanced registered professional nursing approved in the United States or its territories:
 - (f) the practice of nursing in this state by legally qualified nurses of

any of the other states as long as the engagement of any such nurse requires the nurse to accompany and care for a patient temporarily residing in this state during the period of one such engagement not to exceed six months in length, and as long as such nurses do not represent or hold themselves out as nurses licensed to practice in this state;

- (g) the practice by any nurse who is employed by the United States government or any bureau, division or agency thereof, while in the discharge of official duties;
- (h) auxiliary patient care services performed in medical care facilities, adult care homes or elsewhere by persons under the direction of a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery or a person licensed to practice dentistry or the supervision of a registered professional nurse or a licensed practical nurse;
- (i) the administration of medications to residents of adult care homes or to patients in hospital-based long-term care units, including state operated institutions for the mentally retarded, by an unlicensed person who has been certified as having satisfactorily completed a training program in medication administration approved by the secretary of health and environment and has completed the program on continuing education adopted by the secretary, or by an unlicensed person while engaged in and as a part of such training program in medication administration;
- (j) the practice of mental health technology by licensed mental health technicians as authorized under the mental health technicians' licensure act;
- (k) performance in the school setting of nursing procedures when delegated by a licensed professional nurse in accordance with the rules and regulations of the board;
- (l) performance of attendant care services directed by or on behalf of an individual in need of in-home care as the terms "attendant care services" and "individual in need of in-home care" are defined under K.S.A. 65-6201 and amendments thereto;
- (m) performance of a nursing procedure by a person when that procedure is delegated by a licensed nurse, within the reasonable exercise of independent nursing judgment and is performed with reasonable skill and safety by that person under the supervision of a registered professional nurse or a licensed practical nurse;
- (n) the practice of nursing by an applicant for Kansas nurse licensure in the supervised clinical portion of a refresher course; $\frac{\partial F}{\partial x}$
- (o) the teaching of the nursing process in this state by legally qualified nurses of any of the other states while in consultation with a licensed Kansas nurse as long as such individuals do not represent or hold themselves out as nurses licensed to practice in this state; or
 - (p) the practice of nursing by any nurse who holds a license in another

- $1\quad \textit{state and is practicing in this state pursuant to the nurse license compact}.$
- 2 Sec. 7. K.S.A. 65-1114 and 65-1120 and K.S.A. Supp. 2007 65-1124 are hereby repealed.
- 4 Sec. 8. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
- 5 publication in the statute book.