

For Immediate Release

Gov. Cooper Signs HB 550 – Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact

July 21, 2017

Raleigh --- The signing of Nurse Licensure Compact legislation by Governor Roy Cooper on July 20, 2017 triggered the establishment of the enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC), ushering in a new era of nurse licensure and mobility in the United States. North Carolina is the 26th state to pass eNLC legislation. During the planning stages 26 was determined to be the critical number of states needed to implement the updated compact agreement.

The original Nurse Licensure Compact was ratified in North Carolina in 1999. The Compact gives nurses greater mobility when making career moves and eliminated the cost of holding multiple licenses for those nurses who chose to pursue employment in other states that were also members of the Nurse Licensure Compact.

“Boards of nursing were the first health care regulatory bodies to develop a model for interstate licensure,” reported Julie George, Executive Director of the North Carolina Board of Nursing. “In establishing the new eNLC patient safety was of paramount importance.”

Rep. John Szoka, of Fayetteville, championed this legislation in the North Carolina General Assembly. “This legislation is especially important in North Carolina because it allows service members and spouses who have a nursing license to more quickly enter the workforce,” said Rep. Szoka. “Also the eNLC establishes uniform licensure requirements with a higher threshold for issuing a license with a multistate privilege.”

To date the North Board of Nursing has identified more than 17,600 nurses who have taken advantage of the old Compact and with the addition of more states joining the new eNLC this number is expected to grow substantially.

Executives from each of the 26 states* that make up this new compact will form the eNLC Commission. The Commission’s first priority will be to adopt operational rules and set implementation dates. Once set, dates of implementation will be shared with licensed nurses and the public. More information about the eNLC will be posted on the NC Board of Nursing website www.ncbon.com in the coming weeks.

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*eNLC states include: Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia and Wyoming.