



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
February 20, 2013**

**Jewel Mullen MD, MPH, MPA, Commissioner, (860)509-7101**

**House Bill 5275 – AN ACT REQUIRING THE STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING TO  
JOIN THE NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT**

---

---

The Department of Public Health opposes House Bill 5275 as it is currently drafted and provides the following information for the Committee's consideration.

The Nurse Licensure Compact is administered by the National Council for State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN). The NCSBN is the membership association for state nurse licensure regulatory authorities across the country. The Connecticut Department of Public Health and Board of Examiners for Nursing hold a membership. Most notably, the NCSBN develops and administers the national licensure examination for nurses.

The Nurse Licensure Compact is a mutual recognition model of nurse licensure that allows a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse to have one license (in his or her state of residency) and to practice in other states that participate in the Compact. The Nurse Licensure Compact has been in place since 2000 and there are currently 24 participating states. Maine, New Hampshire and Rhode Island are the only New England states that are currently participating.

In order to join the Compact, Connecticut would need to enact legislation and corresponding regulations for implementation that incorporate the model Compact language and rules without any material differences. The need to revise statutory requirements for RN and LPN licensure to be consistent with NCSBN Uniform Core Licensure Requirements and implement mandatory criminal background checks as a condition of licensure, which would potentially have significant cost to the state, must be evaluated.

Several years ago, the Department along with the Board of Examiners for Nursing and other stakeholders began to discuss the feasibility of participating in this initiative. Several challenges and potential barriers were identified, including but not limited to: anticipated loss in revenue to the general fund related to nurse licensure fees; issues related to implementation of criminal background checks; issues related to investigation of complaints, including the issuance and enforcement of subpoenas; restrictions governing the sharing of investigative information; ability to take action against a multi-state privilege and/or the license issued by the home state; and issues related to confidential participation in the health care professional assistance program. The Department feels strongly that each of these issues must be evaluated and addressed before legislation is considered.

The Department of Public Health recommends establishing a work group, including but not limited to representatives from the Department, the Board of Examiners for Nursing and other key stakeholders, to study and evaluate the feasibility and any costs to the State of implementing the Nurse Licensure Compact in Connecticut.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

*Phone: (860) 509-7269, Fax: (860) 509-7100  
Telephone Device for the Deaf (860) 509-7191  
410 Capitol Avenue - MS # 13GRE  
P.O. Box 340308 Hartford, CT 06134  
An Equal Opportunity Employer*