

The Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact



Background

Colorado entered into the new Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC) with the adoption of [Senate Bill \(SB\) 18-027](#) on Thursday, Jan. 18. Governor Hickenlooper signed the eNLC into law just one day before the original nurse licensure compact was to expire. The eNLC increases access to care while maintaining public protection at the state level. Under the eNLC, Colorado nurses are able to provide care to patients in other eNLC states without having to obtain additional licenses, and nurses who are licensed in other eNLC states are allowed to practice in Colorado without additional licensure.

What You Need to Know

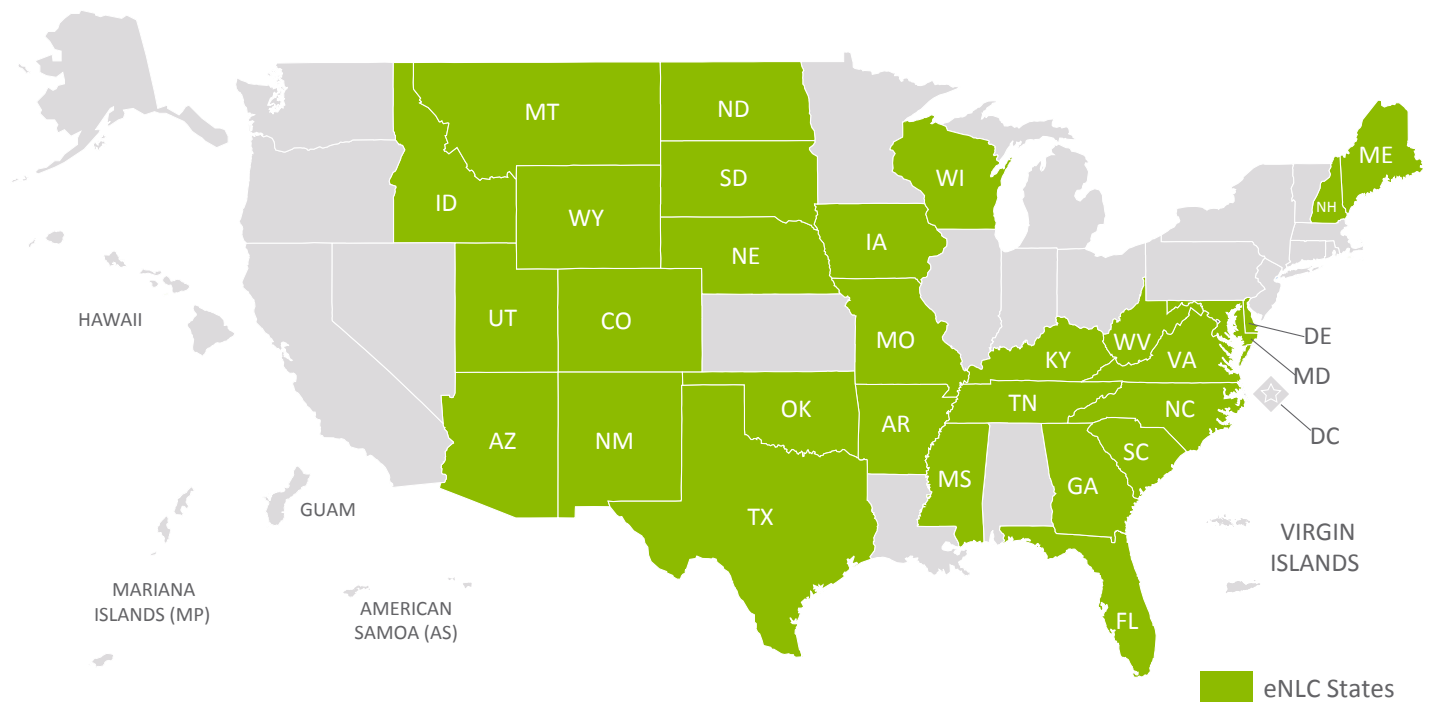
- Nurses who are licensed only in Colorado:
 - You are not required to obtain a fingerprint-based background check to renew your Colorado license.
- NLC nurses licensed prior to **July 21, 2017**:
 - No further action is required – you have been grandfathered in to the eNLC and do not need to obtain a fingerprint-based background check to maintain your original NLC license.
- For nurses practicing as an APN in Colorado with an out-of-state license:
 - No further action is required at this time. Your out-of-state compact license continues to be valid in Colorado.
- Nurses licensed in other eNLC states (outside Colorado):
 - No further action is required – your out-of-state license continues to be valid in Colorado.
- NLC Nurses licensed **on or after July 21, 2017**:
 - You must submit a fingerprint-based background check by **April 19, 2018** in order to maintain your multi-state license.
 - If your fingerprint-based background check has not been submitted to the Colorado Board of Nursing by **April 19, 2018**, your multi-state license will revert to a single-state license and you will be eligible to practice only in Colorado.

continued

- New applications for eNLC (from DORA):
 - To be eligible for a multi-state license, you will need to meet specific licensure requirements including graduating from an approved program, passing the NCLEX-RN or PN exam and undergoing a federal fingerprint-based criminal background check (outlined on pages 6 and 7 of the final bill).
 - The FBI has approved the fingerprint-based background check process and will begin to accept applications for eNLC background checks.
 - For those applicants who are qualified for licensure, the Board of Nursing and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing have approved the issuance of a 180-day temporary permit, pending an attestation that the applicant has fully disclosed his or her criminal history on the application. This gap measure will authorize the permit holder to practice nursing, in a setting in which a Colorado licensed professional nurse is supervising, until the background check system is ensured to be functioning appropriately.

Those who fail to meet the new licensure requirements may still be eligible for a single-state license. If you feel you need a single-state license, contact the Department of Regulatory Agencies Office as soon as possible.

The eNLC covers the following states:



Additional Resources

- SB 18-027: [Final Bill](#) and [Fiscal Note](#)
- SB 18-027 took effect Jan. 19, 2018

For more information, see the [Colorado Board of Nursing](#) website where a FAQ sheet and other resources have been posted. More information can also be found on the [National Council of State Board of Nursing's](#) website.

For questions or more information, contact Amber Burkhart, CHA policy analyst, at 720.330.6028.