

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 655

PRINTER NO. 1760

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

Professional Licensure Augmentation Account

DATE INTRODUCED

May 20, 2019

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Boscola

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 655 establishes the Nurse Licensure Compact Act, which grants the Governor authority to execute a nurse licensure compact (compact) with any one or more states of the United States.

The purpose of the compact is to protect the health and safety of the public by expanding the mobility of nurses and the use of advanced communication technologies as part of the nation's health care delivery system in a uniform manner. Joining the compact will provide a multistate license to registered (RN) or licensed practical (LPN) nurses to practice as a RN or LPN under a multistate licensure privilege in each compact state. Compact states are required to participate in a coordinated licensure information system that includes information on the licensure and disciplinary history of each nurse to assist in the coordination of nurse licensure and enforcement efforts.

The legislation requires the head of the state licensing board or designee to be the administrator of the compact for Pennsylvania. The administrator of the compact holds one vote on the Interstate Commission of Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators (commission). The commission has the authority to promulgate uniform rules to facilitate and coordinate implementation and administration of the compact.

Under Senate Bill 655, the compact becomes operative and in effect between Pennsylvania and other states when the Governor executes the compact on behalf of the Commonwealth and files a verified copy with the Secretary of the Commonwealth. The Secretary of the Commonwealth must publish a notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin that includes the date on which the compact becomes effective.

This act shall take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT

The compact has been operational for over fifteen years, and to date, 34 states have enacted compact legislation.

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The commission has the authority to levy and collect an assessment from each compact member state or impose fees to cover the cost of operations and activities of the commission. Currently, the annual assessment paid by each compact member state is \$6,000, and the commission reports that there are no plans on raising the annual assessment in the immediate future. The Department of State is able to accommodate this annual assessment within existing budget levels of the Professional Licensure Augmentation Account, which is \$56.7 million in FY 2020-21.

Member state licensing boards have the option to impose an additional fee for issuing a multistate license. According to the commission, only three state nurse licensing boards have raised fees on licensees since joining the compact.

The Department of State does not anticipate any immediate costs associated with implementing the provisions of the compact. Additionally, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) has made available grant funding to compact member states to assist with any administrative expenses associated with implementation. The grants issued by NCSBN to compact member states have ranged from \$10,000 to \$500,000.