
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 142 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY HEFFLEY, PICKETT, RYAN, JAMES, CIRESI AND MILLARD,
SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a
2 comprehensive study and review of the State Board of Nursing.

3 WHEREAS, The Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs
4 within the Department of State is charged with oversight of 29
5 licensing boards and commissions and the facilitation of
6 approximately 130 individual licenses and 39 facility licenses;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, The State Board of Nursing protects the health and
9 safety of the residents of this Commonwealth through the
10 licensure, certification and regulation of the practice of
11 professional and practical nursing and dietetics-nutrition by
12 registered nurses, practical nurses, certified registered nurse
13 practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, dietitian-
14 nutritionists and graduate nurses; and

15 WHEREAS, The State Board of Nursing issues licenses and
16 certifications to qualified applicants, approves nursing
17 education programs, establishes standards of practice and

1 disciplines licensees and unlicensed individuals for violations
2 of State laws and regulations; and

3 WHEREAS, The State Board of Nursing has oversight over 51,151
4 practical nurses, 229,639 registered nurses, 16,307 certified
5 registered nurse practitioners, 4,536 licensed dietitian-
6 nutritionists and 264 clinical nurse specialists; and

7 WHEREAS, The State Board of Nursing is the largest board with
8 the greatest number of licensees under the Bureau of
9 Professional and Occupational Affairs; and

10 WHEREAS, Nursing schools, recent nursing school graduates and
11 licensees have been experiencing lengthy license processing
12 times; therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint
14 State Government Commission to conduct a comprehensive study and
15 review of the State Board of Nursing; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission
17 specifically study, at a minimum, the processing times for
18 initial licensure and renewal, the processing times for the
19 issuance of authorization to test for applicants, the reasons
20 for delays in processing times and related issues; and be it
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission compile
23 a report of its findings and recommendations, including, but not
24 limited to, all of the following:

25 (1) The current processing times for the issuance of
26 initial licensure and renewal of licensure for all types of
27 licenses under the State Board of Nursing's jurisdiction.

28 (2) The current processing times for the issuance of
29 authorization to test for applicants.

30 (3) The current processing times and related fees for

1 the approval of proposed nursing curriculum revisions and new
2 nursing education programs.

3 (4) An analysis and comparison of the current processing
4 times for the State Board of Nursing compared to similar
5 boards in other states.

6 (5) The impact of lengthy processing times on applicants
7 regarding their ability to practice and seek employment in
8 this Commonwealth.

9 (6) The cause of the delays in processing times for
10 initial licensure, license renewal, issuance of authorization
11 to test and approval of proposed nursing curriculum revisions
12 and new nursing education programs.

13 (7) Recommendations for statutory or regulatory changes
14 to reduce the delays in processing times.

15 (8) Recommendations on ways to improve the communication
16 between integrated technology systems utilized by the State
17 Board of Nursing.

18 (9) Recommendations on ways to improve processing times
19 under the State Board of Nursing, communication with
20 licensees and stakeholders and the overall processes within
21 the State Board of Nursing;

22 and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission solicit
24 input from organizations representing licensed nurses,
25 representatives from nursing education programs and schools,
26 representatives from hospitals and health care facilities,
27 representatives from the Bureau of Professional and Occupational
28 Affairs and any other groups as necessary to assist the Joint
29 State Government Commission with the report of its findings and
30 recommendations; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That no later than six months after adoption of
2 this resolution, the Joint State Government Commission issue the
3 report of its findings and recommendations to the chair and
4 minority chair of the Consumer Protection and Professional
5 Licensure Committee of the Senate and the chair and minority
6 chair of the Professional Licensure Committee of the House of
7 Representatives.