



Oregon

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Board of Nursing

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Before the
House Committee on Health Care

HB 2691

The Oregon State Board of Nursing wishes to submit testimony regarding House Bill 2691.

The purpose of HB 2691 as written is to authorize nonresident nurses and physicians licensed in another state to provide volunteer health care services in Oregon. The Board is neutral on the bill, but would like to provide information regarding licensure exemptions that exist now, as well as a potential public safety issue.

Statute already allows nonresident nurses licensed in another state to practice in Oregon on a temporary assignment for as many as 30 days if they are part of a transport or disaster team, Red Cross Blood Services personnel, or an educational program presenter. The allowance also applies to staffing of a coronary care or intensive care unit, emergency department, or long-term care facility that is responding to a temporary staffing shortage.

The Board believes that the language in HB 2691 Section 2 (8) (b) regarding licensure applications may not actually be necessary. The board has the ability to set application requirements in administrative rule. In addition, the five day allowance delineated in Section 2 (8) (a) seems more restrictive than the current 30 days.

The Board would also like to point out that an exemption to Oregon licensure currently exists for nurses who are employed by or in federal institutions or agencies (listed in Section 2 (1) of the bill). This exemption includes military nurses.

The language in Section 2 (8) (d) is the most problematic. Nurse practitioners (NPs) have autonomous practice in Oregon. Only 14 other states and the District of Columbia have equivalent nurse practitioner scope of practice. Oregon nurse practitioners are also required to have prescriptive authority and meet continuous competency requirements for prescribing scheduled and legend drugs including regular educational and practice hours, which is not the case for NPs licensed in most other states. So, based on the current bill language, it's likely that many NPs applying for this exemption would not be approved.

The Board would be glad to answer any questions the Committee may have, or to work with the Committee on any desired amendments to the bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 2691.