



Oregon

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Before the
Senate Committee on Health Care

Senate Bill 70

The Oregon State Board of Nursing wishes to submit testimony regarding Senate Bill 70. The purpose of the bill is threefold: 1) it will bring outdated law into alignment with modern licensing processes by deleting references to US mail, 2) it will reflect current statutory requirements regarding the expedited licensing of military spouses, and 3) it will delete obsolete statutory language regarding nurse licensure exams.

Currently, language in three sections of ORS 678.050 contain extremely outdated licensing requirements: In 678.050(1), it states that licensure exam dates will be sent via US mail to all nursing programs. The National Council Licensing Examination (NCLEX) that is used by all 50 states switched to electronic testing a couple decades ago, which allows applicants to sign up through a website. Depending on the time of year, the NCLEX is offered almost daily. The Board does not set the testing schedule. The computerized process for testing negates setting specific testing dates.

ORS 678.050(3)(c) speaks to the Board issuing nursing licenses immediately if the applicant appears in person. This language pre-dates current public safety requirements for criminal background checks to be performed prior to licensure. There are no circumstances under which the Board would issue a license immediately.

Lastly, ORS 678.050(4)(a) refers to the issuance of limited licenses to graduates of nursing education programs once the graduate has applied to take the licensure exam. This language predates computerized testing, which has dramatically shortened the licensure process. What used to take months for a graduate to schedule, take, and pass the nurse licensure exam now takes a few weeks. Limited licenses for nursing graduates are no longer issued or needed.

SB 70 would bring outdated law into alignment with modern licensing processes by deleting references to US mail in ORS 678.050(1), reflecting current statutory requirements regarding the expedited licensing of military spouses in ORS 678.050 (3)(c), and deleting the obsolete language in ORS 678.050(4)(a) entirely.

We anticipate there will be no fiscal impact as a result of this bill. The Board would be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding SB 70.