

**Updated Feb. 22, 2021**

Senate Bill 3 (Nurse Licensure Compact)

* Sponsor Senator Roegner
* Senate Bill 3 was introduced in January 2021. This is the same bill Senator Roegner introduced in the summer of 2020 (then SB 341), plus a few amendments ONA requested that Roegner agreed to. SB 3 will enter Ohio into a multi-state nurse compact licensure program. ONA has been in conversations with the Ohio Board of Nursing and other interested parties regarding this legislation. Seeing as 34 other states are already members of the Nurse Licensure Compact, it could be inevitable that Ohio enacts this law. However, through ongoing negotiations with Senator Roegner, we are seeking to amend the compact as much as possible to address our concerns. Furthermore, while the Senate is generally supportive of compacts, many in the House Chamber are wary about the way it empowers a private national entity to oversee licensure. SB 3 passed the Senate Health Committee and is currently awaiting a Senate Chamber vote.

Mandatory Overtime (No Bill Numbers Yet)

* Sponsors Rep. Cutrona, Senator Schaffer & Senator Antonio
* With new Senate Leadership and by applying a strategy of introducing joint companion bills, we are optimistic that the nurse overtime legislation will finally gain passage in both chambers this GA. This bill will prohibit a hospital from requiring a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse to work overtime as a condition of continued employment. Historically, the Ohio Hospital Association always objects to this legislation. However, with new Senate Leadership, they’ve lost their strongest advocate, Former Senate President Obhof. Our renewed effort will employ a plan to simultaneously introduce a House bill and Senate companion bill along with budget amendments in both the House and Senate.

Nurse Title Protection (No Bill Number Yet)

* Over the past 4 years, we have successfully stopped legislation from the National Assoc. of Veterinarian Technicians to change the professional title of "registered veterinary technician" to "registered veterinary nurse." During this General Assembly, we expect it may be reintroduced, so we will go on the offensive with an operating budget amendment that will strengthen the language (title protection) around the definition of the title “nurse.”

House Bill 122 (Telehealth)

* Sponsors Reps. Fraizer and Holmes
* This bill is a reintroduction of a bill last General Assembly – with a few changes – that requires private health plans to cover telehealth. HB 122 requires cost sharing parity with in-person services and establishes requirements for Medicaid-covered telehealth services. The last bill moved quickly through committee and passed in the House Chamber. However, it stalled in the Senate Chamber over concerns that COVID rules were already covering telehealth practice in most cases. House Bill 122 is currently in the House Insurance Committee.

House Bill 110 (Hospital Licensure / Operating Budget Bill)

* Sponsor Representative Scott Oelslager
* Governor DeWine recently submitted a proposal for hospital licensure. This proposal was submitted within the state operating budget bill. The Governor’s initial legislative language lays out the basic structure of how licensing will work, but many details still remain to be finalized in rules. Therefore, we’re in the process of prioritizing key issues that ONA believes will help RNs, patients and improve our state’s healthcare system in general through this licensure process. We welcome any feedback on this issue and are having ongoing meetings with various interested parties. After finalizing our priorities, we will submit our recommendations to the Governor’s office.

Workplace Violence

* No Sponsor Yet
* We are in the initial stages of developing legislation that will deter workplace violence within hospitals. We welcome any ideas / feedback on this issue and are having ongoing meetings with other healthcare professional associations that could result in a legislative alliance.

House Bill 90 & Senate Bill 22

* Sponsors Representatives Jay Edwards & Wiggam
* Sponsors Senators McColley & Terry Johnson
* House Bill 90 and Senate Bill 22 both seek to authorize House and Senate oversight for any of the Governor’s executive orders pertaining to public health emergencies. The House and Senate would be able to pass a concurrent resolution within 11 days after any health orders or states of emergency are declared by the Governor, immediately repealing those orders or emergencies and preventing the Governor from acting for another 30 to 90 days after the order is overturned. House Bill 90 is currently in the House State and Local Government committee. Senate Bill 22 passed the Senate chamber last week.

House Bill 6

* Sponsor Rep. Bill Roemer
* House Bill 6 is the reintroduction of House Bill 673 from the last General Assembly. The bill seeks to extend the temporary nurse license authorized due to COVID through July 1, 2021. Our amendment to disqualify any nurse that fails the NCLEX from receiving a temporary license is still in the bill. HB 6 will also authorize additional healthcare professionals to administer COVID tests and vaccinations. House bill 6 is currently in the House State and Local Government committee.

Senate Bill 48

* Sponsors Sens. Antonio and Maharath
* SB 48 requires healthcare professionals, including nurses, to complete cultural competency instruction in order to renew or apply for a license. The legislation leaves up to the individual boards how many hours will be required and criteria considered for circumstances in which these requirements can be waived. We do not see this bill as gaining much traction in the Senate, but wanted to put it on HPC’s radar nonetheless.