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Senate Bill 3 (Nurse Licensure Compact)

- Sponsor Senator Roegner
- Senate Bill 3 was introduced in January 2021, passed the Senate and was just voted out of House Health Committee this week on a partyline vote (with one Republican no). This is the same bill Senator Roegner introduced in the summer of 2020 (then SB 341). 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. SB 3 was amended with the following ONA suggested items before being voted out of House Health Committee:
 - Accepted ONA amendments:
 - Language specifying that the Compact does not limit, alter or modify any terms, conditions, or provisions of a collective bargaining agreement entered into by a hospital.
 - Language requiring the employer to report the names of compact nurses they employ to the Ohio Board of Nursing.
 - Language requiring the employer to provide the compact nurse with information on Ohio nursing laws and regulations, as developed by the Ohio Board of Nursing.
 - Language extending the effective date of the bill to January 1, 2023.
 - A corrective amendment on an unrelated issue regarding the Dept. of Developmental Disabilities and the Fresh Start Act from 2019. This has nothing to do with nursing and this amendment was not brought by ONA.
 - Language clarifying that the Ohio Board of Nursing can accept any grant funding from the National Compact to establish the program in Ohio.
 - Language clarifying that the Ohio Board of Nursing may not pass along any costs associated with administering the Compact to traditional Ohio nurses (via license fees).
 - Language clarifying that the Board of Nursing still has authority over education and scope of practice issues for nurses practicing in

Ohio, despite the Compact's authority over some aspects of compact licensure.

- Mandatory reporting for compact nurses: requires the employer to report any misconduct by a compact nurse to the Ohio Board of Nursing that is grounds for disciplinary action.

House Bill 163, Senate Bill 129 & Budget Amendment (Mandatory Overtime)

- Sponsors Reps. Cutrona & Sweeney / Senators Schaffer & Antonio
 - Senate Co-sponsors – Senators Reogner, Hackett, Rulli, Brenner, Thomas, Yuko & Craig
 - House Co-sponsors – Reps. Reidel, Gross, Lepore-Hagan, Joe Miller, Don Jones & Carruthers
- With new Senate Leadership this General Assembly coupled with applying a strategy of introducing joint companion bills and a budget amendment, 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. House Bill 163 passed the House Commerce Committee with a vote of 12-0 last month and was just voted out of the full House yesterday. SB 129 will begin committee hearings after the operating budget process since the Senate Health Committee will be focused on health-related aspects of the budget until summer recess. We met with Committee Chair Steve Huffman and he pledged to begin hearings on the bill in September. The nurse overtime budget amendment was submitted to Senate leadership on May 12, 2021. Unfortunately the amendment was not accepted into the operating budget. Seeing as it's a larger policy issue, we were not surprised by this operating budget outcome.

Nurse Title Protection **No change in status**

- 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." Thus far, their association has not introduced legislation on this issue this GA. We believe this is likely because we stopped their bill after two committee hearings in the last General Assembly. Rep. Gross and Senator Schaffer have shown interest in going on the offensive and introducing a bill that will protect the title nurse if we need it.

House Bill 122 (Telehealth) **No change in status**

- 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 passed the House Chamber in May, 2021 and is currently in the Senate Health Committee. The sponsors have indicated that their conversations with the Senate have been more positive this GA, and there may be a better chance for passage of the bill in the Senate this year.

House Bill 110 (Hospital Licensure / Operating Budget Bill)

- Sponsor Rep. Scott Oelslager
- Governor DeWine submitted a proposal for hospital licensure 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. ONA testified as a proponent of hospital licensure in the House and the Senate during the budget hearings, while offering a few suggestions for how to strengthen certain provisions. The operating budget bill passed both the House and Senate Chambers and is currently awaiting a joint conference committee to reconcile the House and Senate differences.

House Bill 90 & Senate Bill 22 (Legislative Oversight for Governor) **Enacted**

- Sponsors Reps. Jay Edwards & Scott Wiggam
- Sponsors Senators Rob 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. Senate Bill 22 was passed by both chambers, vetoed by the Governor, and then both chambers overruled the Governor's veto in late March. The bill will be effective June 23, 2021. The Legislature was expected to take action using their new authority under this bill if the Governor had not relaxed COVID health orders by this date.

House Bill 6 (Temporary Nurse License) **Enacted**

- 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 remained in the bill through its passage. HB 6 will also authorize additional healthcare professionals to administer COVID tests and vaccinations.

Senate Bill 48 (Cultural Competency Instructions) **No change in status**

- Sponsors Senators Nickie Antonio and Tina 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.

Senate Bill 161 (Surgical Smoke) **No change in status**

- Sponsor Senator Andrew Brenner
- SB 161 would require hospitals that perform surgeries to adopt and implement a policy designed to prevent human exposure to surgical smoke. Such plans would include utilizing equipment designed to capture and neutralize surgical smoke at the point of origin, before the smoke makes contact with the eyes or respiratory tracts of individuals. SB 161 has been referred to the Senate Health Committee and has not yet had any hearings.

House Bill 253 (Vaccine Proof Restrictions) **No change in status**

- Sponsor Rep. Al Cutrona
- HB 253 will prohibit any state agency or political subdivision from requiring a person to show proof of vaccination. Furthermore, the bill will prohibit any requirement to show proof of vaccination to enter into a state owned or operated building. It provides an exemption for purposes dealing with medical care. HB253 is currently in House Health committee.

House Bill 248 (Vaccination Service Restrictions) **No change in status**

- Sponsor Rep. Jennifer Gross
- HB 248 seeks to prohibit any person, political subdivision, public official or state agency from denying service to, segregating or otherwise treating differently, or denying entry to a person that has refused to take any vaccine or wear a mask. HB 248 is currently in House Health committee. There is a very broad coalition of groups opposed to this legislation, including healthcare organizations, business interests, insurance groups and others. ONA is a part of this coalition. There has also been an organized grassroots effort from anti-vaccine groups to support the bill.

House Bill 337 (One-time bonus payments for first responders)

- Sponsors Reps. Craig Riedel & Phil Plummer
- HB 337 will provide a one-time hazard bonus payment for police officers and first responders using federal relief act money. The groups receiving bonuses in the current bill language are police officers, investigators, county deputy sheriff officers, highway patrol, firefighters, EMTs and jail officers. The bill was introduced on June 7, 2021 and doesn't have a committee assignment yet. Lobbying to include nurses in this bill or another bill allocating bonus pay for healthcare workers will be a high priority for ONA in the summer and fall of 2021. We will work to organize a healthcare workers coalition on this effort.

Senate Bill 135 (Higher Education Reform)

- Sponsor Senator Jerry Cirino
- SB 135 is a wide-reaching higher education reform bill intended to maximize postsecondary education outcomes while reducing costs. There is a provision in the bill that requires the Chancellor of Higher Education to approve all requests

by community/technical colleges to offer a bachelor's degree in nursing. There has been significant testimony from health systems and community colleges in support of the nursing program provisions, many citing the nursing shortage. This portion of SB 135 was also included as an amendment in the Senate's omnibus budget bill, which passed the Senate earlier this week. The House does not have the provision in their bill, so the item will be subject to debate during Conference Committee over the next few weeks.