

**Southern Regional Education Board  
Council on Collegiate Education  
Governmental Relations Committee Report  
2018 Legislative Enactments in Nursing**

**Alabama**

Career Pathways	None.
Nurse Educator Incentives	None.
Nursing Practice	<p><u>HB 202</u> Relates to the creation of Palliative and End of Life Individual Health Plans for qualified minors. Provides guidance to school administrators and school nurses on how to provide care consistent with these plans during the school day.</p> <p><u>HB 388</u> Requires certain licensing boards, agencies, or commissions to create rules to issue professional licenses to military spouses. Stipulates that spouses must hold professional licensure in another state that is “substantially equivalent” to Alabama requirements.</p> <p><u>HB 429</u> Gives certified nurse practitioners and certified nurse midwives authority to sign health care forms and documents within the scope of their practice as health care professionals.</p>
Nursing Programs of Study	None.
Recruitment and Retention Incentives	None.
Task Forces and State Initiatives	<u>HB 22</u> Disbands the Alabama Emergency Medical Services Education and Mental Health Capital Outlay Oversight Commissions.

**Arkansas**

The Arkansas General Assembly does not convene regular sessions in even numbered years.

## Delaware

Career Pathways	None.
Nurse Educator Incentives	None.
Nursing Practice	<p><u>HB 195</u> Requires registered nurses to provide supervision of care in nursing facilities and intermediate care facilities for persons with intellectual disabilities.</p> <p><u>HB 248</u> Relates to nurses practicing in freestanding emergency departments. Requires such nurses to hold Delaware registered nurses' licenses. Requires registered nurses to hold or attain within six months of hire certificates (or equivalents) in advanced cardiac life support and pediatric advanced life support. Directs emergency departments to have at least one physician and one registered nurse at the freestanding emergency department at all times.</p>
Nursing Programs of Study	None.
Recruitment and Retention Incentives	None.
Task Forces and State Initiatives	<p><u>SB 147</u> Creates the Advanced Life Support Standards Committee and requires the Delaware Chapter of the Emergency Department Nurses Association to nominate an individual to serve on the committee.</p>

## Florida

Career Pathways	None
Nurse Educator Incentives	None.
Nursing Practice	<p><u>HB 1337</u> Revises definition for “advanced practice registered nurse.” Repeals language related to the certification of clinical nurse specialists.</p> <p>Amends licensure requirements for advanced practice registered nurses, including submitting proof that they hold a current license to practice professional nursing, and meet one or more specified requirements as determined by the State Board of Nursing. Authorizes the State Board of Nursing to adopt rules to provide provisional state licensure to certified nurse midwives, certified nurse practitioners, certified registered nurse anesthetists, clinical nurse specialists, and psychiatric nurses. Requires a transition process for the State Board to convert certificates into licenses. Authorizes advanced nurses to continue practicing during the transition.</p> <p><u>HB 1373</u> Allows licensed practical nurses to train unlicensed employees to dispense drugs.</p> <p><u>SB 510</u> Requires physicians, nurse midwives, or midwives performing out-of-hospital births to report an adverse incident to the Department of Health within 15 days.</p>
Nursing Programs of Study	None.
Recruitment and Retention Incentives	<p><u>HB 1055</u> Exempts current and former nurses employed by addiction treatment centers and their spouses and children from public records requirements.</p> <p><u>HB 5005</u> Involves collective bargaining issues between the State of Florida and the Florida Nurses Association Professional Healthcare Unit.</p> <p><u>SB622</u> Relates to the following: hospital licensure rules and nurse staffing requirements to offer certain services; nurse registries; and, nursing care requirements for adult cardiovascular services.</p>
Task Forces and State Initiatives	None.

## Georgia

Career Pathways	None.
Nurse Educator Incentives	None.
Nursing Practice	<u>HB 818</u> Stipulates that health care providers shall choose the method by which they will be reimbursed by insurers for health care services performed. Clarifies that nursing care by a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse qualifies under this Article.
Nursing Programs of Study	
Recruitment and Retention Incentives	<u>SB 406</u> Relates to criminal background checks and registry checks for owners and personnel at home health, assisted living, hospice, nursing home, and skilled nursing facilities.
Task Forces and State Initiatives	<u>SB188</u> Creates committee to study barriers to healthcare access. Requires nomination of an advanced practice registered nurse to serve on committee.

## Kentucky

Career Pathways	None.
Nurse Educator Incentives	None.
Nursing Practice Nursing Programs of Study	<u>HB 427</u> Updates definition of “advanced practice registered nurse.” Requires APRN license applicants to take certain exam. Clarifies when immediate suspension of a license is warranted. Adds use or possession of a Schedule I controlled substance and use or impairment by use of alcohol or drugs to the list of violations. Stipulates nurses practicing in the state temporarily do not need a license. Clarifies when a registered nurse may pronounce the death of a patient. Authorizes the Board of Nursing to fine nursing programs of nursing that are not in compliance with regulations.
Recruitment and Retention Incentives	None.
Task Forces and State Initiatives	None.

## Louisiana

Career Pathways	None.
Nurse Educator Incentives	None.
Nursing Practice	<p><u>HB 755</u> Authorizes local education agencies and nonpublic schools to adopt policies allowing school nurses and other school employees to administer opioid antagonists.</p> <p><u>SB26</u> Relates to the procedures that a hospice nurse must follow when recording and disposing of unused controlled substances.</p> <p><u>SB 477</u> Allows physicians or licensed nurse-designees to prescribe noncontrolled legend drugs.</p> <p><u>SB 478</u> Repeals fee provisions related to verifying good standing of licensed practical nurses.</p>
Nursing Programs of Study	None.
Recruitment and Retention Incentives	<p><u>HB 394</u> Authorizes the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to operate transitional facilities for incarcerated veterans and to hire healthcare professionals, including nurses.</p>
Task Forces and State Initiatives	<p><u>HCR 70</u> Requires healthcare licensing boards to report to certain legislative committees on efforts to recognize military veterans' training in various healthcare occupations.</p> <p><u>SB40</u> Requires the governor to ensure his/her appointments to the State Boards of Nursing and Practical Nurse Examiners reflect race, gender, ethnic, and geographical diversity. Revises membership for the State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners.</p> <p><u>SB202</u> Enacts the model language required to participate in the Nurse Licensure Compact</p>

## Maryland

Career Pathways	None.
Nurse Educator Incentives	None.
Nursing Practice	<p><u>HB 863/SB 698</u> Sets licensure validity and expiry for advanced practice registered nurses who qualify for State Board of Nursing certification via the multistate Nurse Licensure Compact.</p> <p>Defines the term “nurse anesthetist.” Revises the allowable functions that nurse anesthetists may perform and required procedures as part of the standards of practice.</p> <p><u>SB 8</u> Repeals statutory provisions that authorized the State Board of Nursing to (1) grant extensions of certain licenses pending receipt of criminal background check, and (2) immediately suspend the licenses of nurses expelled from the Safe Practice Program.</p> <p>Authorizes board to issue cease and desist orders or impose encumbrances on a nurse's authority to practice in a certain state.</p>
Nursing Programs of Study	None.
Recruitment and Retention Incentives	<u>HB 1096</u> Creates the Veteran Employment and Transition Success Program to provide grants to assist veterans in obtaining certification, license, or registration in allied health fields.
Task Forces and State Initiatives	None.

## Mississippi

Career Pathways	None.
Nurse Educator Incentives	None.
Nursing Practice	None.
Nursing Programs of Study	<u>HB 721</u> Transfers authority for accrediting schools of practical nursing from the Mississippi Community College Board to the State Board of Nursing.
Recruitment and Retention Incentives	None.
Task Forces and State Initiatives	None.

## North Carolina

Career Pathways	None.
Nurse Educator Incentives	None.
Nursing Practice	<p><u>SB 99 Section 7.27</u> Stipulates a possible uses for School Safety Grants Programs funds to pay for school mental health support personnel, which as per the definitions in the section includes school nurses.</p> <p><u>SB 99 Section 11 H.7. (H)</u> Calls for expanding the program for care for the elderly to include the following: analysis of potential options for delivery of care, including strategies to adapt the PACE model of care to serve populations that are currently ineligible, diagnostic criteria other than a need for skilled nursing level care, and options to allow individuals in assisted living to participate in the PACE program.</p>
Nursing Programs of Study	
Recruitment and Retention Incentives	None.
Task Forces and State Initiatives	None.

## Oklahoma

Career Pathways	None.
Nurse Educator Incentives	None.
Nursing Practice	<p><u>HB 2518</u> Requires applicants for multistate licensure to submit to a criminal background check.</p> <p><u>SB956</u> Clarifies that pharmacists may only dispense controlled substances prescribed by state-licensed advanced practice registered nurses supervised by a licensed practitioner.</p>
Nursing Programs of Study	<p><u>HB 2987</u> Revises the penalties for individuals who receive Nursing Student Assistance Program funds but fail to comply with the provisions of the contract for the funds.</p>
Recruitment and Retention Incentives	None.
Task Forces and State Initiatives	None.

## South Carolina

Career Pathways	None.
Nurse Educator Incentives	None.
Nursing Practice	<p><u>HB 4487</u> Authorizes the Department of health to issue a registration that allows licensed nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives, or clinical specialists to dispense narcotics for maintenance treatments.</p> <p><u>SB 345</u> Revises licensure requirements and standards of practice for advanced practice registered nurses. Allows advanced practice registered nurses to dispense controlled substances and narcotics under certain circumstances.</p> <p>Clarifies discipline levied by the State Board of Nursing for engaging in clinical practice without a proper license.</p>
Nursing Programs of Study	None.
Recruitment and Retention Incentives	None.
Task Forces and State Initiatives	None.

## Tennessee

Career Pathways	None.
Nurse Educator Incentives	None.
Nursing Practice	<p><u>HB 2510</u> Authorizes nurse practitioners or physician assistants who hold federal DEA waivers to prescribe buprenorphine products under certain conditions.</p> <p><u>SB 1515</u> Revises terminology used to describe the relationship of physicians to advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants.</p> <p><u>SB 1543</u> Places the multistate Nurse Licensure Compact under sunset law review. Sets a new termination date of June 30, 2020.</p> <p><u>SB 1797</u> Establishes requirements for psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners to provide clinical services to public safety employees diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).</p>
Nursing Programs of Study	None.
Recruitment and Retention Incentives	<u>SB 2196</u> Requires the Tennessee Department of Education to establish a student support collaborative to review and define the roles and responsibilities for school nurses, social works, counselors, and psychologists.
Task Forces and State Initiatives	<p><u>SB 1518</u> Extends the State Board of Nursing termination date by three years to June 30, 2021.</p> <p><u>SB 2306</u> Gives licensing authorities discretion to suspend, deny, or revoke licenses based on the applicant or licensee having defaulted or become delinquent on student loan repayment.</p>



## Texas

The Texas Legislature does not convene regular sessions in even-numbered years.

## Virginia

Career Pathways	None.
Nurse Educator Incentives	None.
Nursing Practice	<p><u>HB 501</u> Requires hospices to develop policies and procedures for the disposal of drugs by licensed nurses, physician assistants, or medical doctors.</p> <p><u>HB 793</u> Eliminates the requirement that licensed nurse practitioners maintain practice agreements with patient care team physicians if the nurse practitioners have completed the equivalent of at least five years of full-time clinical experience and submitted an attestation from their patient care team physician.</p> <p>Requires that nurse practitioners authorized to practice without a practice agreement only practice within the scope of their clinical and professional training and limits of their knowledge and experience and consistent with the applicable standards of care.</p> <p>Directs the Boards of Medicine and Nursing to jointly promulgate regulations governing the practice of nurse practitioners without a practice agreement.</p> <p><u>HB 1071</u> Authorizes the State Board of Nursing to send notices of licensure renewal electronically.</p>
Nursing Programs of Study	None.
Recruitment and Retention Incentives	<p><u>HB 915/SB 829</u> Directs the Department of Veterans Services to establish a program in which military medical personnel may practice and perform certain delegated acts that constitute the practice of medicine or nursing under the supervision of a state-licensed physician.</p> <p>Allows the chief medical officer of an organization, in consultation with the chief nursing officer, to designate a registered nurse licensed by the Board of Nursing or practicing with a multistate licensure privilege to supervise military personnel participating in such a program while engaged in the practice of nursing.</p>
Task Forces and State Initiatives	<p><u>HB 1114/SB 918</u> Prohibits the licensing boards operating under the Department of Health Professions from suspending or revoking licenses of individuals who are in default or delinquent in the payment of federal, state, or work-conditional education loans.</p>

## West Virginia

Career Pathways	None.
Nurse Educator Incentives	None.
Nursing Practice	<p><u>HB4175</u> Prevents insurance companies or managed care organizations from requiring advanced practice registered nurse participate in a collaborative relationship to obtain payment.</p> <p><u>HB 4199</u> Permits nursing homes to use trained individuals to administer medication under the direction of a registered professional nurse.</p> <p><u>SB 273</u> Authorizes advanced practice registered nurses to prescribe drugs to manage intractable pain. Clarifies that the State Board of Nursing may deny, revoke, or suspend the licenses of advanced practice registered nurses who have demonstrated abnormal prescribing or dispensing practices.</p> <p><u>SB 603</u> Authorizes nurse practitioners with psychiatric certification to examine individuals via court order to determine probable cause for involuntary hospitalization.</p>
Nursing Programs of Study	<p><u>HB 4156</u> Establishes the qualifications for full- and part-time nursing school faculty members.</p> <p><u>HB 4178</u> Permits certain portions of certified nurse aide training to be provided through distance learning technologies.</p> <p><u>HB 4079</u> Removed certain elements from the Code of State Rules including 1) requires new nursing programs to conduct a feasibility study with specific criteria 2) removed the requirement that programs notify the board of potential faculty who meet criteria by exception to teach in accredited programs 3) removed the requirement that programs notify the board of any major curriculum changes.</p>
Recruitment and Retention Incentives	None.
Task Forces and State Initiatives	<p><u>HB 4035</u> Creates the State Advisory Council on Palliative Care and requires legislative officers to nominate a registered professional nurse to serve on the council.</p>