

SREB Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing: 2017 Governmental Relations Interim Report

Foreword

This document summarizes public laws enacted during the 2017 Regular Legislative Sessions in the 16 SREB member states and the District of Columbia. SREB organizes enactments into the following six categories.

Career Pathways	State education agencies, in collaboration with nursing practitioners, have created model curricula for high school students who demonstrate interest in nursing and allied health fields.
Nurse Educator Initiatives	This section covers programs and initiatives that encourage current nurses to teach aspiring practitioners in post-secondary settings.
Nursing Practice	This section references any enactments that affect the day-to-day experience of nurses in hospitals, outpatient facilities, psychiatric centers, nursing homes, and hospices. Laws may reference licensure or practical requirements.
Nursing Programs of Study	Issues and topics in this section include program standards and accreditation, program admission and field experience requirements, and initial licensure criteria.
Recruitment and Retention Incentives	State policymakers often leverage or authorize institutions to use incentives to recruit and retain practitioners in allied health fields.
Task Forces and State Initiatives	State laws may create task forces and commissions to study a problem or recommend specific legislative actions for the same.

2017 Legislative Enactments in Nursing

Alabama

Career Pathways

Nursing Educator Initiatives

Nursing Practice

[House Bill 96](#) authorizes healthcare providers, including nurses and nurse's aides, to decline to participate in providing patient medical care in certain cases based on their religious, moral, or ethical beliefs. The Act restricts nonparticipation to four healthcare services: abortion, embryonic stem cell research, human cloning, and sterilization.

[House Bill 315](#) establishes the Midwifery Board. The new law authorizes board duties, including but not limited to: (1) issuing, renewing, suspending or revoking midwifery licenses; (2) investigating complaints and conducting hearings; (3) establishing reasonable licensure fees; and (4) setting acceptable levels of liability insurance for licensed midwives.

The Alabama Board of Nursing approved two new Advisory Councils on advanced practice nursing in July 2017. These two councils will provide input to the Board on emerging issues facing the four roles of advanced Alabama Report Fall 2017 2 practice nurses. There will be one council for CRNPS and CNMs because of the collaborative practice agreement structure and one for CRNAs/CNSs.

Nursing Programs of Study

Recruitment and Retention Incentives

Task Forces and State Initiatives

[House Bill 105](#) authorizes the continued existence and function of the Alabama Board of Nursing through October 1, 2021. The act authorizes successor organizations to assume the functions of the incumbent, if needed.

2017 Legislative Enactments in Nursing

Arkansas

Career Pathways

Nursing Educator Initiatives

[House Bill 1538](#) expands student loan eligibility to aspiring nurse educators enrolled in doctoral nursing programs. Existing law only included master's nursing programs as eligible for state support.

Nursing Practice

[House Bill 1180](#) authorizes advanced practice registered nurses and physician's assistants to hold signature authority in certain cases, including but not limited to: sports physicals, do-not-resuscitate orders, death certificates, workers' compensation forms, and excusal from jury duty.

[House Bill 1413](#) establishes an alternative discipline program for nurses. The Act authorizes the Arkansas State Board of Nursing to create a program for intervention, treatment, and rehabilitation of impaired nurses. The Act defines impairment as inability to practice nursing safely as a result of substance abuse or a diagnosed physical or mental health condition.

[House Bill 1482](#) adopts the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact.

[House Bill 1626](#) authorizes individuals licensed by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing from photographing a patient for purposes of medical treatment.

[House Bill 1808](#) adds sexual extortion to the list of offenses that disqualify nurses from receiving or holding professional licensure.

[House Bill 1901](#) authorizes nurses, to receive one hour of continuing education credit for each eight hours of service delivered to low-income patients enrolled in volunteer healthcare programs.

[Senate Bill 170](#) creates an exemption from licensure for healthcare professionals, including nurses, who offer free healthcare services in partnership with the United States Department of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training program.

[Senate Bill 339](#) requires the Arkansas State Board of Nursing to establish rules limiting the amount of Schedule II narcotics that may be prescribed by licensed professionals.

Nursing Programs of Study

[House Bill 2174](#) addresses duplicative training of certified nurse assistants in long-term care facilities.

Recruitment and Retention Incentives

[House Bill 1426](#) authorizes the state to provide financial aid to students who enroll in state-supported schools of nursing that prepare registered nurses.

[Senate Bill 95](#) waives licensure renewal fees charged by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing for nursing professionals who are also active-duty members of the military.

Task Forces and State Initiatives

[House Bill 1745](#) updates the law concerning the Task Force on Alpha-Gal.

[House Bill 2067](#) creates the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Task Force.

2017 Legislative Enactments in Nursing

Delaware

Career Pathways

Nursing Educator Initiatives

Nursing Practice

[House Bill 143](#) removes the authority of the Delaware State Department of Education to issue an initial license to an applicant for school nurse.

[Senate Bill 59](#) adopts the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact.

[Senate Bill 63](#) updates licensure qualifications. The Act requires registered nurses and licensed practical nurses to pass their respective national examinations before the Board of Nursing issues an initial license. The Act resolves conflicting definition of an “advanced practice registered nurse,” and incorporates references to the newly-created Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Committee. The Act stipulates the conditions that advanced practice registered nurses must satisfy to revive an expired, renewable license.

Nursing Programs of Study

Recruitment and Retention Incentives

Task Forces and State Initiatives

[House Bill 120](#) establishes the Addiction Action Committee and requires the governor to appoint a Delaware licensed registered nurse who is nominated by the Delaware Nurses Association.

2017 Legislative Enactments in Nursing

Florida

Career Pathways

Nursing Educator Initiatives

Nursing Practice

[House Bill 229](#) revises the impaired practitioner program. The Act requires the Department of Health or regulatory boards to oversee impaired practitioner matters.

Nursing Programs of Study

[House Bill 543](#) revises regulations for nursing education programs. The Act authorizes the Board of Nursing to grant a one-year extension to nursing education programs that are on probation for failure to meet the graduate passage rate. The board retains the right to terminate nursing programs after the probationary period, if progress is not demonstrated. The Act prohibits programs for reapplying for accreditation for three years. The Act authorizes the board to adopt curriculum rules for nursing education programs.

Recruitment and Retention Incentives

[Senate Bill 7022](#) authorizes the Department of Veterans' Affairs to implement a competitive pay plan to address recruitment and retention challenges among employees who hold a nursing assistant certification.

Task Forces and State Initiatives

2017 Legislative Enactments in Nursing

Georgia

Career Pathways

Nursing Educator Initiatives

Nursing Practice

[House Bill 486](#) stipulates that “good faith efforts” by medical professionals, including advanced practice registered nurses and registered professional nurses, to provide health maintenance training to proxy caregivers should not be considered professional delegation.

[Senate Bill 47](#) exempts visiting sport teams’ physicians, physician assistants, and athletic trainers from state licensure requirements.

[Senate Bill 96](#) authorizes registered professional nurses, nurse practitioners, or physician assistants to make pronouncements of death in nursing homes and hospice centers.

[Senate Bill 106](#) provides that certified registered nurse anesthetists may provide medical services in pain management clinics without a physician present if a physician has previously examined the patient and the clinic has received written consent of the patient.

[Senate Bill 109](#) adopts the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact.

[Senate Bill 125](#) authorizes physician assistants to prescribe a single nonrefillable order for hydrocodone.

[Senate Bill 242](#) involves the delegation of certain medical acts to advanced practice registered nurses.

Nursing Programs of Study

Recruitment and Retention Incentives

Task Forces and State Initiatives

[Senate Resolution 188](#) creates the Senate Study Committee on Barriers to Georgians’ Access to Adequate Healthcare. The committee will study the extent to which advanced practice registered nurses could provide healthcare services in underserved areas. The resolution requires representation from the State Board of Nursing, schools of nursing, and the APRN practitioner community.

2017 Legislative Enactments in Nursing

Kentucky

Career Pathways

Nursing Educator Initiatives

Nursing Practice

[House Bill 304](#) adopts the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact.

[Senate Bill 21](#) authorizes health care providers, including licensed advanced practice registered nurses, to attest to the presence of a terminal illness to make the patient eligible for treatment with an investigational drug, biological product, or device. The Act prohibits licensing boards to act against a healthcare providers based on their recommendation.

Nursing Programs of Study

Recruitment and Retention Incentives

[House Bill 312](#) ends the Best in Care for Nurses student loan forgiveness programs by June 30, 2018.

Task Forces and State Initiatives

[House Bill 311](#) authorizes the Office of Kentucky Veterans' Centers to hire licensed nurses to provide long-term care to veterans residing in department-operated homes.

2017 Legislative Enactments in Nursing

Louisiana

Career Pathways

Nursing Educator Initiatives

Nursing Practice

[House Concurrent Resolution 51](#) urges the Louisiana Department of Health to establish rules requiring physicians, nurses, and other healthcare providers to record immunization records.

[Senate Bill 216](#) authorizes physician assistants and nurse practitioners to execute emergency certificates relative to a patient's alleged mental illness or substance abuse.

Nursing Programs of Study

Recruitment and Retention Incentives

[House Bill 4](#) authorizes local education agencies to hire retired school nurses.

[House Bill 427](#) creates a tax credit program for physicians and primary care nurse practitioners who provide healthcare in rural and underserved areas. The Act provides that the total tax credits shall not exceed \$1.5 million.

[House Concurrent Resolution 104](#) urges the Louisiana Workforce Commission and Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs to study professional licensing requirements for 46 occupations so that veterans transition smoothly into the workforce. Two of the occupational areas are nursing and practical nurse examination.

Task Forces and State Initiatives

[House Bill 490](#) creates the Advisory Council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education. The Act recommends that the council solicit the feedback of professional organizations, including the Louisiana State Nurses Association, the Louisiana State Nurses Association, and the Louisiana State Board of Nursing.

[House Concurrent Resolution 55](#) creates the Medicaid Integrated Care Assessment Task Force and requested the participation of President of the Louisiana Nurses Association or his designee.

2017 Legislative Enactments in Nursing

Maryland

Career Pathways

Nursing Educator Initiatives

Nursing Practice

[House Bill 253](#) - alters the licensure renewal requirements for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses. The Act allows licensed professional to complete continuing education requirements in lieu of a preceptorship program.

[House Bill 482](#) amends the definitions for “advanced practice registered nurse,” “registered nurse,” and “nurse practitioner.” The Act provides relative to qualifications for advanced practice certification.

[House Bill 1632](#) requires the physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, nurse midwife, or attending clinician to prepare certificates of birth for infants born outside of a healthcare institution.

[Senate Bill 41](#) adopts the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact.

Nursing Programs of Study

Recruitment and Retention Incentives

[House Bill 683](#) provides relative to state income tax credits for nurse practitioners who serve without compensation as a preceptor in a preceptorship program approved by the State Board of Nursing. Nurse practitioners must work a minimum of three rotations, each consisting of at least 100 hours to receive the tax credit certificate.

Task Forces and State Initiatives

[House Bill 482](#) alters the membership of the State Board of Nursing and the requirements for the election of Board officers. The Act authorizes the board to hire a deputy director.

[Senate Bill 38](#) increases the number of voting members on the State Advisory Council on Health and Wellness. One of the new members must represent the Maryland Nurses Association.

[House Bill 0233](#) Requires a health care provider to disclose a medical record without specified authorization to a guardian ad litem appointed by a court to protect specified interests of a minor or a disabled or elderly individual who is a specified victim, for a specified purpose and use in specified court proceedings; authorizing a specified guardian ad litem to redisclose a specified record under specified circumstances; etc.

2017 Legislative Enactments in Nursing

Mississippi

Career Pathways

[Senate Bill 2963](#) appropriates state funds to the Mississippi Community College Board. The Act funds dual enrollment opportunities for secondary students to pursue coursework in practical nursing.

Nursing Educator Initiatives

Nursing Practice

[House Bill 488](#) adopts the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact.

Nursing Programs of Study

[Senate Bill 2964](#) appropriates state funds to two-year postsecondary institutions. In the enrollment funding formula, the state pays more for students pursuing associate degrees in nursing and allied health.

Recruitment and Retention Incentives

Task Forces and State Initiatives

[House Bill 1483](#) appropriates state funds to the Mississippi Board of Nursing. The Act funds the Office of Nursing Workforce (ONW), which promotes alignment between nursing practice and nursing education.

2017 Legislative Enactments in Nursing

North Carolina

Career Pathways

Nursing Educator Initiatives

Nursing Practice

[House Bill 243](#) describes the conditions that would allow nurse practitioners to prescribe a targeted controlled substance and requires reporting through the Controlled Substances Reporting System.

[House Bill 550](#) adopts the Enhanced Nursing Licensure Compact.

Nursing Programs of Study

[House Bill 657](#) provides that a minimum of 90 hours of training for personal care aides in adult care homes shall be comparable to the state-approved Certified Nurse Aid I training.

Recruitment and Retention Incentives

Task Forces and State Initiatives

[Senate Bill 257](#) funds the North Carolina State Budget. The Act provides relative to state funds for school nurses. The Act requires the Department of Public Safety to develop a plan to attract and retain qualified nurses for permanent positions in state prisons.

2017 Legislative Enactments in Nursing

Oklahoma

Career Pathways

Nursing Educator Initiatives

Nursing Practice

[House Bill 1886](#) revises the definitions for “Clinical Nurse Specialist,” “Nurse Midwife,” and “Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist.” The Act amends the conditions for which the Board of Nursing may initiate disciplinary action.

[Senate Bill 180](#) provides that individuals qualified as certified nurse aides shall be deemed to have met the requirements to work as a home health aide.

Nursing Programs of Study

Recruitment and Retention Incentives

Task Forces and State Initiatives

2017 Legislative Enactments in Nursing

South Carolina

Career Pathways

Nursing Educator Initiatives

The South Carolina Board of Nursing is developing a position statement on simulation in the nursing curricula. The statement is to address how simulation time can be applied to curricula clinical hours and under what condition. <http://www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Nursing/PStatements/Simulation.pdf>

Nursing Practice

[House Bill 3132](#) requires hospice nurses operating in outpatient environments to record in a decedent's medical record the name and quantity of each unused controlled substance. The Act governs regulations for the proper disposal of unused prescriptions.

[House Bill 3349](#) adopts the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact.

[Senate Bill 345](#) amends code of Laws in SC: certain nursing professionals may provide no-controlled prescriptions drugs at entities that provide free medical care for indigent patients; nurse practitioners and certified nurse midwives orally or in writing may refer patient to a physical therapist for treatment; exempt advance practice registered nurses from certain licensure and practice provisions when employed by U.S. government; eliminate requirement that supervising physicians be responsible for ensuring certain acts delegated to advance practice registered nurses are performed to certain standards

[Senate Bill 351](#) allows an income tax credit for each clinical rotation served by a physician, advanced practice nurse, or physician's assistant as a preceptor for certain programs.

Nursing Programs of Study

[House Bill 3793](#) authorizes two public universities to offer doctoral degrees in nursing practice.

Recruitment and Retention Incentives

Task Forces and State Initiatives

2017 Legislative Enactments in Nursing

Tennessee

Career Pathways

Nursing Educator Initiatives

[House Bill 511](#) funds the state budget. The Act provides grant funding for five regional perinatal centers to hire additional nurse educators.

Nursing Practice

[House Bill 325](#) authorizes licensing boards to issue temporary limited licenses to health professional who have been out of clinical practice or inactive for an extended period. The Act allows licensing boards to develop educational or supervised practice requirements that would lead, if completed, to full professional licensure.

[House Bill 1067](#) stipulates that a healthcare practitioner violates the Practitioner's Practice Act by refusing to submit to a drug test or testing positive for a drug without a lawful prescription. The Act establishes the procedure for licensing boards to follow when healthcare practitioners do not comply with the terms of a referral to a substance abuse peer assistance or treatment program.

[Senate Bill 150](#) authorizes physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and nurse midwives who are advanced practice registered nurses to treat minors with sexually transmitted diseases to the full extent of the person's authority, including prescribing and dispensing drugs.

[Senate Bill 523](#) authorizes nurse practitioners who hold a certificate of fitness and who have entered into a collaborative agreement with a licensed physician may prescribe or issue controlled substances

[Senate Bill 639](#) authorizes a healthcare provider to satisfy one hour of continuing education requirements in exchange for one hour of volunteer healthcare service. The Act stipulates that volunteer service hours must not exceed eight hours annually or 20 percent of the total continuing education units required by the applicable license.

Nursing Programs of Study

Recruitment and Retention Incentives

[House Bill 511](#) funds the state budget. The Act funds a loan-scholarship program for graduate students in professional nursing and stipulates that unspent funds shall be carried forward for future student awards.

Task Forces and State Initiatives

[Senate Bill 60](#) extends the sunset on the Board of Medical Examiners' Committee on Physician Assistants through June 30, 2021.

[Senate Bill 1170](#) creates the State Palliative Care and Quality of Life Task Force.

2017 Legislative Enactments in Nursing

Texas

Career Pathways

Nursing Educator Initiatives

Nursing Practice

[House Bill 2886](#) indemnifies physicians, nurses, and midwives from criminal, civil, or administrative liability for failure to administer prophylaxis due the objection of a parent or guardian.

[House Bill 2950](#) adopts the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact. The Act continues the Texas Board of Nursing. The Act provides relative to which conditions constitute a basis for denial of a license or disciplinary action. The Act authorizes advanced practice registered nurses to determine death and complete death certificates.

[House Bill 3296](#) decreases the minimum number of nurses employed by a person that triggers the requirement to establish a nursing peer review committee.

[House Bill 3934](#) waives required observation and training period for surveyors of certain long-term care facilities if they have completed one year of full-time employment in a Texas nursing facility as a facility administrator, licensed vocational nurse, registered nurse, or social worker in the two years preceding their current work.

[Senate Bill 654](#) authorizes advanced practice registered nurses as primary care providers in a Medicaid or child health plan managed care organization, regardless of whether the physician supervising the nurse is in the provider network.

[Senate Bill 919](#) authorizes physician assistants or advanced practice registered nurses to complete the medical certificate for a death certificate under certain circumstances.

[Senate Bill 1107](#) establishes the components of a valid practitioner-patient relationship when the healthcare provider prescribes a drug via telemedical services. The Act requires several licensing boards, including the Texas Board of Nursing to adopt rules relative to the new telemedicine requirements.

[Senate Bill 1565](#) relates to obtaining consent to order medical or dental treatment for certain individuals admitted to state care because of mental illness or intellectual disability.

Nursing Programs of Study

[Senate Bill 2118](#) authorizes public junior colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs in nursing. The Act revises and expands requirements for institutions offering nursing degrees.

Recruitment and Retention Incentives

Task Forces and State Initiatives

[House Bill 280](#) establishes a grant program to fund innovative approaches to reduce verbal and physical violence against nurses.

2017 Legislative Enactments in Nursing

Virginia

Career Pathways

Nursing Educator Initiatives

[House Bill 1500](#) appropriates funds to support public-private partnerships to increase the supply of nursing faculty at the University of Virginia and through the [Virginia Community College System](#).

Nursing Practice

[House Bill 1514](#) provides that healthcare providers, including nurse practitioners, who report to the Department of Motor Vehicles mental or physical disabilities that may impact driving are not subject to civil liability for violating practitioner-patient privilege (Senate Bill 1024 is an identical bill).

[House Bill 1548](#) provides relative to advance directives for mental health treatment. The Act authorizes the person's agent to exercise authorities under the advance directive if the attending physician, psychiatrist, licensed psychiatric nurse practitioner, or social worker determines the person is incapable of making an informed decision (Senate Bill 1511 is an identical bill).

[House Bill 1767](#) authorizes healthcare practitioners to prescribe controlled substances to patients via telemedicine services (Senate Bill 1009 is an identical bill).

[House Bill 2301](#) removes the requirement that registered nurses provide direct supervision of licensed practical nurses administering vaccinations.

[Senate Bill 1116](#) authorizes local school division employees who are registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, or certified nurse aides to assist students with inserting or reinserting insulin pumps.

[Senate Bill 1484](#) authorizes the disclosure of Medicaid Managed Care patients' prescription data to a physician's or pharmacist's nurse-designee.

[Senate Bill 973/House Bill 1921](#) Assault and battery; health care providers; penalty. Expands the penalty for battery against a health care provider who is engaged in the performance of his duties to apply in hospitals or in emergency rooms on the premises of any clinic or other facility rendering emergency care. Under current law, the penalties only apply to a battery against an emergency health care provider. The bill requires the Department of Health to work with stakeholder groups to develop guidelines regarding the publication of penalties for battery on a health care provider and for the training of health care professionals and providers in violence prevention programs.

Nursing Programs of Study

Recruitment and Retention Incentives

[House Bill 1500](#) stipulates that graduate students in allied health, nursing, pharmacy, and medical programs are eligible to receive Tuition Assistance Program awards. The [Act](#) also appropriates funds to the University of Virginia and through the [Virginia Community College System](#) to support public-private partnerships to maximize the number of newly licensed nurses.

Task Forces and State Initiatives

[House Bill 2161](#) requires the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to convene a workgroup to develop educational standards and curricula for training healthcare providers on treating pain while minimizing use of opioids. The Act requires participation from each school of nursing in the Commonwealth (Senate Bill 1179 is an identical bill).

HB1921/SB973

2017 Legislative Enactments in Nursing

West Virginia

Career Pathways

Nursing Educator Initiatives

[Senate Bill 198](#) provides financial aid for professional pursuing advanced degrees in nurse education who sign an agreement to teach at least two years at a school of nursing located in West Virginia.

Nursing Practice

[House Bill 2373](#) authorizes school nurses to administer an epinephrine auto-injector to students and school personnel during regular school hours.

[House Bill 2522](#) adopts the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact.

[Senate Bill 36](#) authorizes school nurses to administer opioid antagonists to students and school personnel.

[Senate Bill 497](#) limits the liability of healthcare providers who render services at school athletic events.

Nursing Programs of Study

Recruitment and Retention Incentives

[Senate Bill 198](#) creates the Health Sciences Service Program, an incentive program for health professional students to complete training as a physician, nurse practitioner, nurse educator, nurse midwife, or certain specified fields.

Task Forces and State Initiatives

[House Bill 2706](#) authorizes regulatory changes made by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission to the Nursing Scholarship Program.

[Senate Bill 4](#) allows licensed healthcare professionals to donate time to care for indigent and need individuals in a clinical setting.

[Senate Bill 347](#) requires the completion of a medical certification within twenty-four hours of receipt of the death certificate by the physical, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse.

--- eNLC states include: Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia and Wyoming.