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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

S.B. 341
133rd General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

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Version: As Reported by Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Roegner

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- In order to participate in the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC), the Ohio Board of Nursing may experience administrative costs to promulgate and amend rules, investigate any complaints against multistate practitioners, and provide required data to NLC.
- The Board may experience a loss of fee revenue if those licensed in other compact states do not have to pay the license fee for a registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN) license. However, the Board may charge Ohio RNs and LPNs applying for multistate licensure a greater amount than a traditional license, which could result in additional fee revenue.
- The Board will be assessed an annual fee of \$6,000 to NLC.

Detailed Analysis

The bill enters Ohio as a party to the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) one year after the bill goes into effect. Joining NLC will allow RNs and LPNs licensed in other states to practice in Ohio and those licensed in Ohio to practice in other states. The bill specifies that a multistate license to practice nursing issued under the Compact is one option for nurse licensure in Ohio, and authorizes the Board to set the multistate fee at an amount greater than what it charges for traditional RN and LPN licenses.¹ As a result, Ohio RN and LPN licensees would be eligible to apply for a multistate license issued by the Ohio Board of Nursing, possibly resulting in additional fee revenue that will depend on the cost of the license and the number of RNs and LPNs that apply. However, it may experience a loss in fee revenue from licensees that no longer need to apply for

¹ The Board charges \$75 for initial licensure for both RNs and LPNs.

an RN or LPN license in Ohio because they hold a multistate license issued by another compact state.

The Ohio Board of Nursing may receive additional complaints due to practitioners from out of state with a Compact Privilege. This could result in an increase in administrative and investigation cost.² The Board will also be required to submit data to NLC regarding Ohio licensees, posing an administrative cost. The bill also requires an employer that hires an out-of-state nurse with a multistate license to report certain information to the Board and to provide certain information developed by the Board to that employee; this will pose an administrative cost to the Board and any public hospitals that hire a nurse with a multistate license.

Additionally, the Compact establishes an Interstate Commission of Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators to, among other responsibilities, prescribe bylaws. In order to pay for the Commission's expenses, the Commission may levy and collect an assessment from each compact state; thus, the Board would pay this assessment which is estimated to be \$6,000. Joining NLC will require the Board to select an administrator to vote on NLC bylaws and attend an annual meeting, posing an administrative cost.

The bill could also result in other indirect impacts to the state and political subdivisions. RNs and LPNs that practice in Ohio with a Compact Privilege could provide additional services to Ohioans and provide increased access. If this occurs, there could be additional reimbursements from state and local programs that reimburse for these services. However, if the utilization of services led to an avoidance of other more expensive treatments, there could be a reduction in costs. If an Ohio resident utilizes an out-of-network provider, there could be an additional cost to state or local programs or health plans.

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² Over two million RNs and LPNs have licenses in compact states. https://www.ncsbn.org/NLC_Fast_Facts.pdf.