

Senate Bill 341 (Nursing Compact Licensure)

This bill was introduced in September 2020. Ohio will join with 25 other states that have authorized a multi-state nurse compact licensure program. Due to the amount of time left in this General Assembly, it is unlikely this bill will pass by the end of 2020.

House Bill 144 (Mandatory Overtime)

House Bill 144 will prohibit a hospital from requiring a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse to work overtime as a condition of continued employment. Despite major opposition from the Ohio Hospital Association, HB 144 passed the House in late 2019 and we had the first Senate hearing on March 4, 2020. Sen. Michael Rulli agreed to be the new Senate champion in light of Rep. Manning's, original sponsor, unexpected tragic passing in March. Conversations about bringing the bill up for a second hearing have occurred.

Senate Bill 131 (Veterinary Nurses - No change in status)

Senate Bill 131 was introduced on May 18, 2019, and referred to the Senate Agriculture committee last May. This bill will change the professional title of "registered veterinary technician" to "registered veterinary nurse." SB 131 had its first committee hearing on June 26, 2019. Nurses are opposed to this legislation. Since facing major opposition during the last hearing, as we desire the term nurse be referred to those taking care of human patients, the committee chair has not called the bill for another hearing. As nurses we are pleased that the bill is likely dead.

House Bill 177 (Regards standard care agreement and prescribing requirements - No change in status)

House Bill 177 seeks to end a requirement that advanced practice registered nurses have collaboration agreements with physicians. The bill was introduced in May 2019 and is currently in the House Health Committee. A hearing was scheduled May 19, 2020, but unfortunately, did not get brought up for consideration. The House Health Committee has not met since summer recess and will likely not meet again until after the November election.

House Bill 224 (CRNA Bill) – Enacted

House Bill 224 will grant CRNAs the authority to order and administer certain drugs and treatments within certain facilities. The legislation is not a mandate for all medical facilities. A hospital has the ability to decide the best way to utilize CRNAs. HB 224 was introduced last year and had a series of lively committee hearings. The bill was amended into HB 197, the emergency coronavirus legislation and the Legislature passed it on March 25, 2020, thus it is now law.

International Nurse Labor Trafficking

Labor trafficking of immigrant nurses that are contractually locked into low wages and bad working conditions is a serious emerging issue in the United States. This is a concerning issue that we may see more about in the future.