

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 602

(Delegates Hutchinson and Adams)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

**State Board of Nursing - Advanced Practice Nursing Licensure and Specialty
Certification - Reciprocity Discussions (Maryland Border States Advanced
Practice Nursing Act)**

This bill requires the State Board of Nursing (MBON) to hold discussions with the state nursing licensing boards for Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia to pursue reciprocity agreements for advanced practice nursing licensure and specialty certification. By November 1, 2025, and each November 1 thereafter for the next four years, MBON must submit a report regarding the discussions to specified committees of the General Assembly. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements can likely be handled with existing budgeted resources. To the extent additional staff is required, MBON special fund expenditures increase accordingly, as discussed below. Any impact on MBON special fund revenues is anticipated to be minimal, as discussed below.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: MBON must prioritize collaboration with each specified jurisdiction to facilitate the establishment of mutual and reciprocal licensure recognition arrangements in order to (1) increase access to qualified advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs);

(2) enhance licensure portability; and (3) provide ease of telehealth access in the State and surrounding jurisdictions.

The annual report must include (1) the status of reciprocity discussions with each specified jurisdiction; (2) any agreements reached and the terms, if any; (3) any challenges encountered during negotiations; and (4) recommendations for legislative or regulatory changes necessary to facilitate reciprocity of nursing licenses.

Current Law: Chapters 32 and 33 of 2024 authorize any health occupations board (that did not otherwise have statutory authority to do so) to adopt regulations establishing reciprocity for individuals who are licensed or certified in another State that also offers similar reciprocity to individuals licensed or certified by the board. MBON did not have statutory authority to issue a license by reciprocity prior to Chapters 32 and 33. However, since 1999, Maryland has participated in the Nurse Licensure Compact, which authorizes an individual to practice as a registered nurse (RN) or a licensed practical nurse in a remote state.

In Maryland, an individual must be licensed as an RN and certified as an APRN by MBON to practice as a nurse practitioner, nurse anesthetist, nurse midwife, or clinical nurse specialist. The requirement does not apply to (1) a student enrolled in a graduate level accredited program for advanced practice registered nursing while practicing advanced practice registered nursing in that program or (2) an individual permitted to practice advanced practice registered nursing under rules and regulations adopted by MBON.

State Revenues: To the extent that the State enters into reciprocity agreements with another state under the bill, MBON special fund revenues may decrease as APRNs who do not reside in the State but chose to be licensed and certified by MBON are no longer required to hold a Maryland license. Currently, each new applicant for an APRN license in Maryland must pay a \$100 RN license fee and a \$50 certification fee; each additional initial advanced practice certification is \$25. On a biannual basis, each APRN must pay \$110 to renew their license, as well as \$26 for fees assessed by the Maryland Health Care Commission and \$10 for each advanced practice certification renewal.

State Expenditures: Existing MBON staff can likely hold discussions and pursue reciprocity agreements with the specified state nursing licensing boards and complete the required annual reports. However, MBON advises that there are current staff vacancies, and the recruitment process for additional staff is lengthy. Therefore, additional contractual staff may be required to assist with the bill's requirements or backfill existing staff responsibilities. MBON advises that special fund expenditures increase by approximately \$90,000 for a salary and one time start-up costs associated with one full-time contractual health policy analyst during the first fiscal year additional staff resources are required.

MBON is special funded; typically, all board operations are paid with special funds generated through fee revenues. Costs associated with MBON infrastructure operations shifted to the Maryland Department of Health in fiscal 2023 and continue through 2025; therefore, beginning July 1, 2025, all MBON expenditures are special funded. Any expenditures associated with the bill will be covered by the Board of Nursing Fund.

Additional Comments: As of January 2025, Delaware is one of four states to have enacted [APRN Compact](#) legislation. Maryland considered legislation to enact the APRN Compact in 2022, 2023, and 2024.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 407 (Senator Beidle, *et al.*) - Finance.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 31, 2025
js/jc Third Reader - March 13, 2025

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