



MINUTES
NLC Commission Meeting (Virtual)
June 16, 2026

Commissioners Present:

(Those not present are bolded)

1. N. Baker, AL
2. **J. Ridenour, AZ**
3. **A. Davis, AR**
4. S. Delp, CO
5. D. Dalton, CT
6. J. Barnes, DE
7. L. Jensen, FL
8. N. Taylor, GA
9. **P. Calalo, GU**
10. N. Chopski, ID
11. A. Racine, IN
12. K. Grooms, IA
13. A. Guererro, KS (interim)
14. K. Jenkins, KY
15. S. Wolkart, LA-RN
16. H. Cambra, MA
17. K. Esquibel, ME
18. R. Scott, MD
19. P. Johnson, MS
20. L. Scheidt, MO
21. M. Poortenga, MT
22. **A. Oertwich, NE**
23. A. Czechowicz, NH
24. M. Fortier, NJ
25. S. Ferguson, NM
26. C. Tillman, NC
27. S. Olsen, ND
28. M. Anielski, OH
29. J. Barnhouse, OK
30. W. Miller, PA
31. L. D'Alessio, RI
32. **W. Smith, SC**
33. L. Young, SD
34. S. Richardson, TN
35. K. Benton, TX
36. J. Busjahn, UT
37. C. Morris, VA
38. **C. Vanterpool-Romney, VI**

39. S. Boni, VT
 40. A. Bradywood, WA
 41. M. Chapman, WV-PN
 42. **R. Weinman, WI**
 43. R. Fillbrandt, WY

#	Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
	BUSINESS AGENDA		
1.	a) Call to Order b) Commissioner Roll Call c) Declare Quorum Present d) Adopt Business Agenda e) Introduction of new NLC Commissioners N. Baker (AL) S. Wolkart (LA-RN) and A. Guerrero (KS)	Chair S. Richardson called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm CT. Roll call was taken. S. Richardson declared a quorum present with 36 commissioners in attendance. S. Richardson welcomed three new commissioners: • N. Baker (AL) • S. Wolkart (LA-RN) • A. Guerrero (interim commissioner-KS)	M. Anielski made a motion to adopt the business agenda as presented. M. Fortier seconded. The motion passed.
2.	Declaration of Conflict of Interest	J. Puente read the Declaration of Conflict of Interest aloud.	
3.	NLC Commission Minutes of March 16, 2026	S. Richardson asked the commission members if there were revisions to the March 16, 2026 minutes. The members had no edits.	W. Miller made a motion to approve the March 16, 2026 minutes as presented. A. Bradywood seconded. S. Wolkart (AL) and S. Boni (VT) abstained. The motion passed.
4.	Government Affairs Update/New Staff Introduction	Government Affairs Director N. Livanos introduced her department's newest staff member, E. Wesenberg, associate, state affairs, who previously was employed in NCSBN's Education Department. N. Livanos reported on federal and state updates: <u>Federal Affairs:</u> Work continues in Congress on the	

		SHARE Act. Government Affairs staff have engaged with bill sponsors in both chambers. This bill clarifies the FBI's authority to process criminal background checks for purposes of compact license or authorization. Staff are working closely with the Senate sponsors (Sen. Welch and Blackburn). In the House, staff are hoping for a hearing in the Education and Workforce Committee and are meeting with members to educate them on the issue and ask for co-sponsorship of the bill. Fourteen boards of nursing submitted letters of support for the bill, along with nursing associations and nurse leaders. The Nursing Community Coalition, a coalition of 65 national nursing organizations, recently endorsed the bill. Nearly fifty of the 65 organizations signed a letter to send to the bill's sponsors. <u>State Affairs:</u> Nearly all legislative sessions are completed for the year. The NLC received hearings in AK, IL, and MN. Alaska – there were several hearings, amendment attempts, and grassroot efforts by staff working with NSNA-AK and coalition partners. There was discussion regarding staffing ratios, which were included with the NLC in the same House bill. That NLC bill did not advance out of the House committee. The state has one more year to fulfill its commitment to join the NLC or face potential Rural Health Transformation Program funding clawback. Illinois – there was a committee hearing in May, which was the first House hearing on the NLC in the	
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		state since pre-Covid. There were just under 2,000 witness slips in support of the NLC, with only just over 200 slips in opposition. Michigan – the state’s legislative is still in session. The NLC bill passed in the House last summer and is still active; the bill is now in the Senate awaiting a hearing. Staff will continue grassroot efforts and also conversations with lawmakers and supporters to advocate for a hearing.	
5.	NLC Policy Committee Review: • Policy 1.1 – Election of Officers • Policy 1.2 – Advisory Opinions • Policy 1.3 – Access to Legal Counsel	NLC Policy Committee Chair S. Boni reported on that committee’s revisions to three policies by formatting, checking citations, and clarifying language.	J. Barnes made a motion to approve NLC policies 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3 as presented. M. Poortenga seconded. The motion passed.
6.	NLC Elections Committee Report	L. D’Alessio, NLC Elections Committee co-chair, informed the commission members of the open Executive Committee positions. Nominations for: • Vice Chair • Treasurer • Members-At-Large (two positions) will be accepted beginning Aug. 10, at the NLC Annual Meeting, and through Aug. 31. Election results will be announced on Oct. 1, the first day of fiscal year FY27. Commission members were encouraged to run or to ask a peer to run for a position.	
7.	Paperless In-Person Meetings-NLC Commission and NLC Executive Committee Meetings	J. Puente informed the commission members of the overwhelming survey response to the NLC going paperless. The NLC will begin use of the platform (BoardEffect) used by the NCSBN Board of Directors. Staff anticipate that the new platform will be ready for use before the NLC Annual Meeting in Aug. 2026.	

		Commissioners will receive a brief training on the platform prior to Annual Meeting.	
8.	NLC Virtual Legal Forum	J. Puente reported that two Legal Forum sessions have been held this summer, with the 3 rd session scheduled for June 18. These sessions are not only for attorneys, but also for commissioners and board staff. Continuing education is offered for nurses and attorneys. Registration is open until one week prior to each session. Each session is recorded. The recording audio and slides will be posted online at the end of the series.	
9.	Member Updates and Open Discussion	L. Jensen (FL) asked for suggestions on how to verify a nurse's licensure or experience from Puerto Rico. Several commission members stated their state requires such a nurse to obtain a credentials evaluation. Several commission members offered to send their state processes to L. Jensen regarding this issue. S. Olsen (ND) reported that recently nurses in her state have requested a single-state license when they have a multistate license (MSL) in another state because they want to begin a professional liability company. The Secretary of State's office made the request to the nurse. J. Puente replied that this entity may not recognize how the Privilege to Practice of a MSL from another state is the equivalent to a license in ND. A. Guerrero (KS) reported that his state received a question from an elected official regarding the felony ban for issuing an MSL and	

		if the NLC Commission will ever reconsider that issue. L. Scheidt advised to inform legislators of the uniform license requirement which requires that boards of nursing shall not issue an MSL to those with a felony, and to encourage those legislators to look at their felony expungement laws as a remedy for these applicants.	
10.	Online Meeting Evaluation	S. Richardson asked the commission members to complete the online evaluation.	
	ADJOURNMENT	The meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm CT.	J. Barnes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. L. Young seconded. The motion passed.