



MINUTES
NLC Commission Midyear Meeting
Phoenix, AZ
March 16, 2026

Commissioners Present:

(Those not present are bolded)

1. P. Benson, 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 (A. Varghese, designee)
10. N. Chopski, ID
11. A. Racine, IN (T. Herron, designee)
12. K. Grooms, IA
13. C. Moreland, KS
14. K. Jenkins, KY
15. C. Constanza, LA-PN
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 (N. Eltabbakh, designee)
- 40. A. Bradywood, WA
- 41. M. Chapman, WV-PN
- 42. **R. Weinman, WI**
- 43. R. Fillbrandt, WY

#	Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
	BUSINESS AGENDA		
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Call to Order b) Commissioner Roll Call c) Declare Quorum Present d) Welcome NCSBN Staff, NCSBN Board of Directors and Guests e) Welcome new NLC Commissioners Laura Jensen, Phillip Calalo, Kori Grooms, and Whitney Smith f) Adopt Business Agenda 	<p>Chair S. Richardson called the meeting to order at 9:00 am MT. Roll call was taken and there were 39 commissioners in attendance. S. Richardson declared a quorum present.</p> <p>S. Richardson welcomed new commissioners L. Jensen (Florida), P. Calalo (Guam), K. Grooms (Iowa) and W. Smith (South Carolina).</p>	P. Bensen made a motion to adopt the business agenda. W. Miller seconded. The motion passed.
2.	Declaration of Conflict of Interest	J. Puente read aloud the conflict of interest statement.	
3.	Minutes of October 28, 2025	S. Richardson asked the commissioners if there were revisions to the October 28, 2025 minutes. The commissioners had no edits.	P. Bensen made a motion to approve the October 28, 2025 minutes as presented. J. Barnhouse seconded. The motion passed.
4.	Government Affairs Update	<p>NCSBN Government Affairs Director N. Livanos presented the legislative update.</p> <p>N. Livanos highlighted several states' activities regarding the NLC:</p> <p>Michigan - the NLC bill passed the state house in June 2025 and the bill carried over to the 2026 session. There is a broad group of proponents supporting the NLC, including ANA-Michigan and the state's student nurses' association. Opponents include the Michigan Nurses Association and various unions.</p>	

		<p>Nevada - there was an omnibus compact bill in the last legislative session presented by the Nevada Patient Protection Commission. The bill did not receive a hearing, but drew attention around the urgency for the state to join the NLC.</p> <p>New York - Governor Kathy Hochul included the NLC in her 2025 budget recommendation.</p> <p>Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP): The program is administered by the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). States had two opportunities to receive funding related to the NLC. The first opportunity scores states based on whether they had active legislation to join the NLC, had enacted the NLC, and were fully operational NLC members. States who have yet to enact the NLC could also formally commit to do so by December 31, 2027. RHTP applications were due in November 2025. All 50 states sent submissions and received awards. The RHTP NLC commitments were Alaska, Hawaii, and Illinois. If the states fail to meet their policy commitments CMS has indicated they will withdraw RHTP funding.</p> <p>2026 Legislative Session: Seven jurisdictions introduced the NLC in 2025 and carried the bill over to 2026, or introduced the NLC during the current session. Those jurisdictions were Alaska, Washington DC, Hawaii, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, and New York. N. Livanos reported on several jurisdictions' legislative actions.</p> <p>Alaska – the state has NLC legislation supported by the</p>	
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		<p>governor. Another bill introduced in the state house includes NLC language, but has a material deviation that would jeopardize the state’s participation in the NLC.</p> <p>Hawaii – the Governor is leading the NLC initiative related to the RHTP.</p> <p>Minnesota – the state house partisan breakdown is tied at 67-67, so the house is operating under a power-sharing agreement. The NLC had a hearing. There is opposition from the Minnesota Nurses Association.</p> <p>Michigan – in June 2025 the NLC bill passed in the state house, and NCSBN staff are waiting for a hearing by the Senate Regulatory Affairs committee. The bill is supported by several organizations including the Michigan student nurses and ANA-Michigan. There is an ongoing grassroots campaign to call for a hearing.</p> <p>Federal Affairs: Criminal Background Checks (CBCs): After enacting the NLC, Massachusetts submitted their NLC CBC language to the FBI, but received a denial, despite working with a state agency that is a liaison between the state and FBI to develop the language. As a result of the denial, the state introduced legislation in the governor’s supplemental budget to clarify the authority of the board of nursing to request FBI CBCs for applicants. The bill was enacted in December 2025.</p> <p>SHARE Act: Coalition work continues on this federal legislation to clarify the FBI’s authority to share CBC information with state agencies for the purpose of licensing under</p>	
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5.	<p>Treasurer’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY25 Year-End Report • FY26 YTD through Jan 31, 2026 Report 	<p>NLC Treasurer Sam Delp presented the treasurer’s report. The NCSBN-funded report showed that the NLC ended FY25 \$47,571 over budget due to the hiring of a department coordinator, 25th anniversary expenses, and exhibiting costs. NCL Midyear and Annual Meetings and 25th NLC anniversary expenses totaled \$35,724.15 under budget. In total for FY25, the NLC was \$11,847 over budget (1.8%). The NLC Commission-funded report displayed that \$1,345,398.75 was carried over into FY26. The NLC NCSBN-funded quarterly report ending 1/31/26 showed that the NLC was \$31,096 under budget compared to the year-to-date budgeted total.</p>	
6.	Rules Committee Report	NLC Rules Committee Chair	

		<p>Meredith Parris presented the committee report virtually and began by reviewing committee charges; highlights included:</p> <p>Charge #1 - the Rules Committee will determine the type of education necessary regarding the statutory requirements of Article III(c).</p> <p>Charge #2 - completed in December 2025 when M. Parris presented a webinar on the topic of Article III(c)(5); the committee will incorporate this topic into other programming.</p> <p>Charge #3 - the committee will complete a comprehensive review of the NLC rules, as conducted every three years.</p> <p>Charge #6 – the committee will draft an amendment to Rule 202 (querying Nursys).</p> <p>Charge #7: the committee will draft language for a proposed rule of alternative-to-discipline participants in remote states’ programs.</p> <p>2026 Virtual Legal Forum this summer – the NLC Rules Committee is the event planning committee for this conference. Attorneys are encouraged to attend, and CLE will be offered to those attendees. CE will be available for nurses.</p> <p>The Rules Committee will meet in person later in 2026, and a potential rulemaking session will be held in the next 1-2 years.</p>	
7.	Policy Committee Report	<p>J. Puente presented the NLC Policy Committee report due to the absence of Chair S. Boni due to weather. The NLC policy manual is reviewed on a 3-year cycle, and policies are created or updated as necessary. The committee reviewed NLC policy 1.1 (Election of</p>	

		Officers) and policy 1.2 (Advisory Opinions) – these revisions will be reviewed by the NLC Executive Committee in the near future. Legal citations will also be reviewed. The commissioners were encouraged to offer feedback for any policy that may require revision. Policies will go before the commission for approval at future meetings.	
8.	Compliance Committee Report	NLC Compliance Committee Chair Kelly Jenkins presented the committee’s objective as ensuring that boards of nursing in the compact are compliant with the NLC’s statute and rules, with a focus on providing education to party states. The committee charges were reviewed. Since the NLC 2025 Annual Meeting, the committee has worked with the Nursys® team and the NLC Technical Task Force to make several enhancements to NLC Nursys reports, including the BON Note, Alternative-to-Discipline added to License Audit, and Disciplined Individuals Issued a New Multistate Licenses. There will be future education offered to commissioners on the use of these reports. The NLC Compliance Self-Assessment Toolkit contains three sections (core elements, operational requirements, and utilization of Nursys reports). Compact states will conduct an annual review using the toolkit to determine compliance with NLC policies and procedures (subject to review on a 5-year cycle). There will be future virtual training on the toolkit including the Nursys reports, and to determine best practices for party state compliance.	
9.	Training and Education Committee Report	NLC Training and Education Committee Chair K. Esquibel presented her report virtually and	

		<p>reviewed the committee charges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NLC fact sheets and flowcharts are reviewed every three years, and the committee recently began review of these resources. • The 2026 virtual Legal Forum will offer CE and CLE credits. • The NLC has presented four webinars in 2026 with the next webinar scheduled for March 24 on the multistate license 60-day rule. • The Tip of the Week was renamed last year to NLC Insights (for the public) and NLC Insider (for members). • The NLC Governance Training will again be held before the NLC Annual Meeting in August 2026 in Chicago. • The next NLC Operations Network meeting is April 28 and interested board staff who work on NLC items should inform their commissioner if they wish to have their name added to the email list. 	
10.	Elections Committee Report	<p>NLC Elections Committee Co-Chair R. Fillbrandt reviewed the committee charges and encouraged commissioners to run for an NLC Executive Committee position. There are four positions available (vice chair, treasurer, and two members-at-large) although all of these positions are eligible for reelection. Nominations will be accepted beginning Aug. 10, 2026, at the NLC Annual Meeting, and through Aug. 31, 2026. New terms will be announced on Oct. 1 of this year.</p>	
11.	NLC Education Session	<p>NLC Legal Consultant F. Knight presented on suggested multistate license and privilege to practice (PTP) language for board orders, consent agreements and</p>	

		<p>alternative-to-discipline agreements.</p> <p><u>Remote State Language:</u> These suggestions can be modified to meet a state’s specific needs. It is important that both sides (board staff/executive officer and the nurse) understand what they have agreed to in these situations. Boards of nursing (BONs) need to memorialize in those agreements all their intentions (goals, expectations of the nurse). There is more concern regarding a nurse using their PTP and the remote state takes action against the PTP. The items to include in board orders and consent agreements (in the style of the case) were displayed and should be inserted into the opening paragraph of the order or agreement. The nurse should be informed that the action is an encumbrance and the nurse is barred from the PTP in the remote state. The nurse must acknowledge that they no longer have PTP to practice in the remote state. When not compliant, the nurse may state they did not understand the agreement, which is why it is important to include this language. The Wherefore clause is repetitive, but should restate the above stated information.</p> <p><u>Home State Language:</u> The home state carries the bulk of the burden since they control the license. BONs should ensure that the document states that the nurse’s multistate license (MSL) is suspended or revoked (for example), and does not have privileges in any other jurisdiction. The MSL shall not be reinstated in the remote state until the consent agreement’s terms and conditions and each uniform licensure requirement are met. The Wherefore clause should reflect</p>	
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		that the nurse no longer has a MSL and shall not practice in any other jurisdiction on a PTP. If a BON allows a nurse working under a PTP in their state to enter that state's ATD program, that BON must inform the home state, and the remote state BON must have the nurse complete the entire single state license application process, including a criminal background check, before they enter the program.	
12.	Recognition – Peggy Benson	NLC Commission Chair S. Richardson presented the recognition award to P. Benson, who is retiring as Alabama Board of Nursing executive officer and NLC commissioner. P. Benson served as NLC commissioner for six years.	
13.	Commissioner Open Forum Q&A	NLC Commission Chair S. Richardson encouraged commissioners to take advantage of NLC board of nursing training. There were no questions or comments from commissioners.	
14.	Public Open Discussion Forum	There were no comments or questions from the public.	
15.	Online Meeting Evaluation	O. Shana sent the meeting evaluation to the commissioners.	
	ADJOURNMENT	The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 pm MT.	P. Benson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. M. Anielski seconded. The motion passed.