



NORTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

919 S 7th Street, Suite 504, Bismarck, ND 58504-5881

Telephone: (701) 751-3000 Fax: (701) 751-2221

Web Site Address: www.ndbon.org

SB 2395 Senate Workforce Committee ND Board of Nursing

Chair Wobbema and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding Senate Bill 2395. The North Dakota Board of Nursing (NDBON) supports this legislation in its amended form, as it brings clarity, efficiency, and alignment with best practices in occupational licensure.

Key Points of Support:

- 1. Clarification on Exam Administration:**
SB 2395 clearly defines that not all licensing boards administer exams, such as the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) for nurse licensure, which is administered by a third party (Pearson VUE). This distinction ensures that the NDBON is not subject to unnecessary administrative requirements related to examination scheduling.
- 2. Alignment with the Nurse Licensure Compact:**
The NDBON is a proud member of the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC), which spans 43 jurisdictions and was the first state to pass the APRN Compact. The NLC already promotes mobility and efficiency in nursing licensure and SB 2395 complements this framework by reinforcing universal licensure principles. This alignment strengthens North Dakota's commitment in supporting a modern, flexible workforce.
- 3. Commitment to Licensing Efficiency:**
While SB 2395 allows up to ten business days for boards to issue routine licenses, the NDBON remains committed to faster processing, often completing applications within one to three business days. Additionally, we offer 90-day temporary licenses, enabling applicants to work in North Dakota while finalizing their applications.

Recent upgrades to our licensing system—already in use across many states studied in SB 2249—have further improved our efficiency. While online applications have been available for years, applicants and licensees now have personalized accounts to track license status, apply or renew, receive notifications, and communicate directly with the board from any device. Recent website enhancements have also improved accessibility, ensuring a seamless experience for applicants and stakeholders.

4. Collaboration with the North Dakota Department of Labor:
In 2023-2024, the NDBON partnered with the North Dakota Department of Labor to conduct a comprehensive study on boards and board operations. This study, conducted as a result of SB 2249 (passed during the 68th Legislative Assembly), provided valuable insights into best practices, regulatory efficiencies, and the evolving needs of occupational boards. SB 2395 reflects many of the lessons learned from that study, including recommendations for streamlined operations, enhanced reporting, and continuous improvement in licensure processes.

SB 2395 as amended supports NDBON's commitment to regulatory excellence, efficiency, workforce mobility, and public protection.

Dr. Stacey Pfenning DNP APRN FNP FAANP | NDBON Executive Director
919 S 7th St, Suite 504 | Bismarck, ND 58504
Phone: (701) 527-6761 | Fax: (701) 751-2221
spfenning@ndbon.org