



March 30, 2009

Dear Maryland Nurse,

The Maryland Board of Nursing asks for your support of Senate Bill 205, as amended, State Board of Nursing – Licensure by Endorsement – Temporary Limited Licenses.

The purpose of the bill is to address the nursing shortage by providing alternate ways for individuals to meet Maryland's high standards for licensure without compromising those standards. It is a 3-part bill that attempts to eliminate some barriers to licensure in Maryland.

First, the bill will allow those individuals who want to take the national Licensure Exam (NCLEX) in Maryland and have graduated from a nationally accredited program, but do not have the clinical experience required by Maryland, to acquire that experience through an approved nursing program prior to taking the exam. Currently these nurse graduates cannot take the NCLEX in Maryland.

The second part of the bill will permit nurses who have graduated from a nationally accredited nursing program; passed the NCLEX; and are licensed in another state or country, but did not have hands on clinical experience as part of their original nursing program, to obtain a license by endorsement in Maryland if they have practiced for an acceptable number of hours in another state; have an unencumbered license; and otherwise meet the requirements for licensure in Maryland. These nurses cannot currently be licensed in Maryland.

The third part of the bill will authorize the Board to give a Temporary Limited License to nurses already licensed in another state who have passed the NCLEX exam but are missing one didactic component required by Maryland. They still must meet all of the other requirements for a license by endorsement in Maryland. The Temporary Limited License will restrict the practice areas for these nurses to only those areas where they are qualified by education and experience and will be limited to twelve months, during which they are expected to obtain the missing didactic component of their education by enrollment in an approved nursing course. Currently these nurses cannot be licensed in Maryland.

SB 205, as amended, will allow nurses who do not meet our requirements to "bridge the gap" while maintaining our current high standards.

Thank you,

Patricia A. Noble, RN, MSN
Executive Director