State Legislative Trends in Health and Human Services

Nevada Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services March 11, 2024

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Source: NCSL

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MEETINGS

NCSL meetings
facilitate
information
exchange and
policy discussions

Agenda

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES TRENDS

HEALTH WORKFORCE TRENDS PHYSICIAN LICENSURE STATE ACTIONS

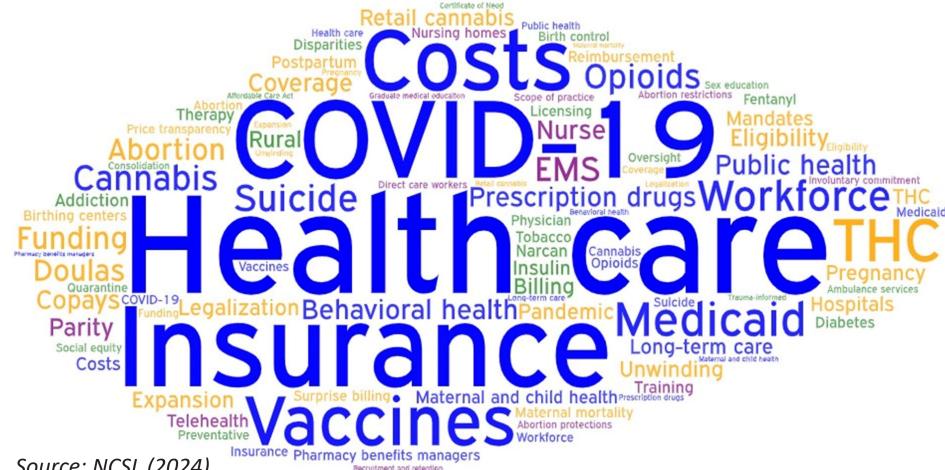
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES TRENDS





HEALTH TRENDS



See NCSL's Forecast '24

Report: Health Workforce

Reform, Stat: Demand for

Care Outpacing Supply of

Workers (Nov. 2023)

Source: NCSL (2024)

HUMAN SERVICES TRENDS

CHILD CARE

- Incentivize employer-supported child care.
- Expand eligibility for child care subsidies.
- Improve compensation and public benefits for child care providers.

HOUSING SUPPLY AND AFFORDABILITY

- Regulate investor purchases of rental properties.
- Tax or register short-term rental properties.
- Expand eviction protections for tenants.
- Incentivize housing production and create homeownership opportunities.

See NCSL's Forecast '24

Report: <u>Targeting Policies</u> that Help Families Stay Afloat (Nov. 2023)



HEALTH WORKFORCE TRENDS



Challenges: Shortages and Turnover

See NCSL's <u>Health</u>
Workforce Resources
(Feb. 2024)

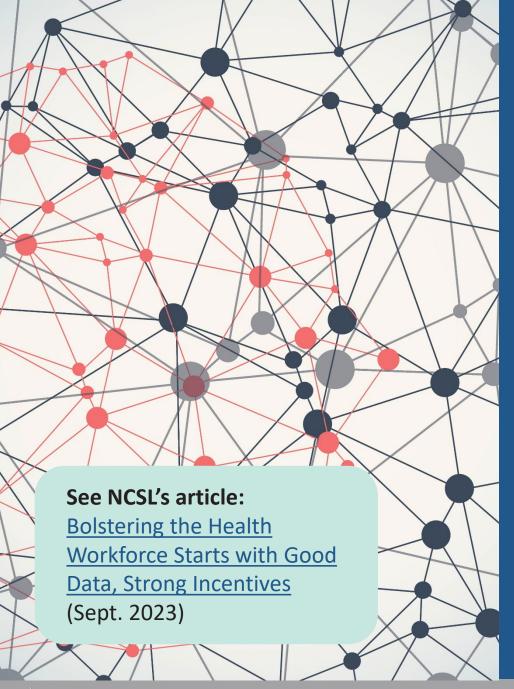
ESTIMATED TURNOVER RATES 2019-2021

See Figure 1, <u>Tracking Turnover Among Health Care</u>
<u>Workers During the COVID-19 Pandemic</u>, JAMA Health
Forum (2022)

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SPECIALISTS PER 100,000 RESIDENTS

(Psychiatrists, Addiction Specialists, Psychologists, Counselors and Therapists)

See <u>Behavioral Health Workforce Tracker</u>, The Mullin Institute at George Washington University (2021)



Data Collection and Analysis

COLORADO (2023)

Established Direct Care Workforce Stabilization Board.

GEORGIA (2022)

Established
Behavioral Health
Care Workforce
Database.

INDIANA (2018)

Required professionals to report data for licensure renewal.

FLORIDA (2023)

Required facilities to report workforce data.

ILLINOIS (2022)

Established Holistic Mental Health Care for Youth in Care Task Force.

<u>UTAH</u> (2022)

Established Health Workforce Advisory Council and Information Center.

Recruitment: Career Pathways

See NCSL's report: Leveraging
Career Pathway Programs:
State Strategies to Combat
Health Care Workforce
Shortages (Sept. 2023)

COLORADO

- HB 1274 (2015) established the Career Pathways for Students for Critical Occupations in Growing Industries program.
- 2019-2020 focus on the behavioral health.

INDIANA

- SB 223 (2018) required data during health professional licensure renewal processes.
- <u>Ivy Tech Community College</u>, established a Certified Nursing Assistant bridge program.

NEBRASKA

- Nebraska Rural Health
 Opportunity Programs and
 Kearney Health Opportunity
 Programs
- LB 792 (2022) provided ongoing annual funding through 2025.

Retention: Financial Incentives

LOAN FORGIVENESS AND REPAYMENT

- **Georgia** (HB 81, 2021) increased funding for its physician loan forgiveness program and established a forensic pathology fellowship.
- **Idaho** (HB 718, 2022) established education reimbursement in exchange for four years of practice.
- New York (<u>SB 2500</u>, 2022) established loan repayment for psychiatrists who work in the state for at least five years.

TAX CREDITS

- Louisiana (La. Rev. Stat. §47:297) established the Small Town Health Professional Tax Credit of \$3,600 for primary care physicians including family practice, general practice, internal medicine and obstetrics/gynecology.
- Oregon (Ore. Rev. Stat. §215.613) established income tax credits of up to \$5,000 for physicians who practice in an eligible hospital or other facility located in a rural community that provides services to Medicare and Medicaid enrollees.

Emerging Health Workforce Topics

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

1,200+ bills introduced in 2024.

Themes:

- EMS as an essential service.
- Community paramedicine.
- Licensure age requirements.
- Training programs and career pathways.
- Financial incentives.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

115+ bills introduced in 2024.

Themes:

- Monitoring and/or preventing discrimination.
- Practitioner monitoring and review.
- Patient transparency.

See NCSL's database:

Emergency Medical
Services Legislation
Database

See NCSL's resource:

Summary of Artificial Intelligence 2023
Legislation (Jan. 2024)

STATE ACTIONS: PHYSICIAN LICENSURE



Licensure Processing Times

CHALLENGES:

- Paper-based application processes.
- Increasing applications for temporary and telemedicine providers.
- Delays in fingerprint background checks.
- Limited staffing to process documents and communicate with applicants.

"The data study has encouraging news, even with the increased number of applications and requests for licenses, the processing times have remained the same or improved."

See table on page 2, <u>IMLCC Data Study Year 6</u>, Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission (June 2023)



Paper → Online Processes

CALIFORNIA

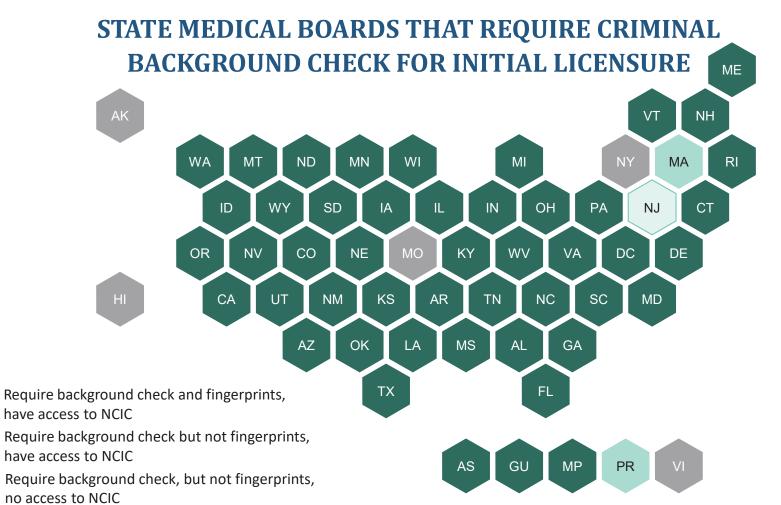
- Paper-based, snail mail procedures.
- Two changes:
 - Direct Online Certification Submission (DOCS)
 - Online verification of Continuing Medical Education
- Began in early 2020, expedited due to COVID.
- As of May 2022, DOCS registered 223 medical schools, 2,047 programs and has 1,552 authorized users.

WISCONSIN

- Delays were caused by missing paperwork.
- New platform, <u>license.wi.gov</u>.
 - Allows applicants and employers to monitor progress in licensing process.
 - Turnaround time decreased from 90 days to under 30 days.
- Governor proposed the agency keep fee revenue and hire additional staffing.
- Legislators ordered an audit of the agency.



Background Check Requirements

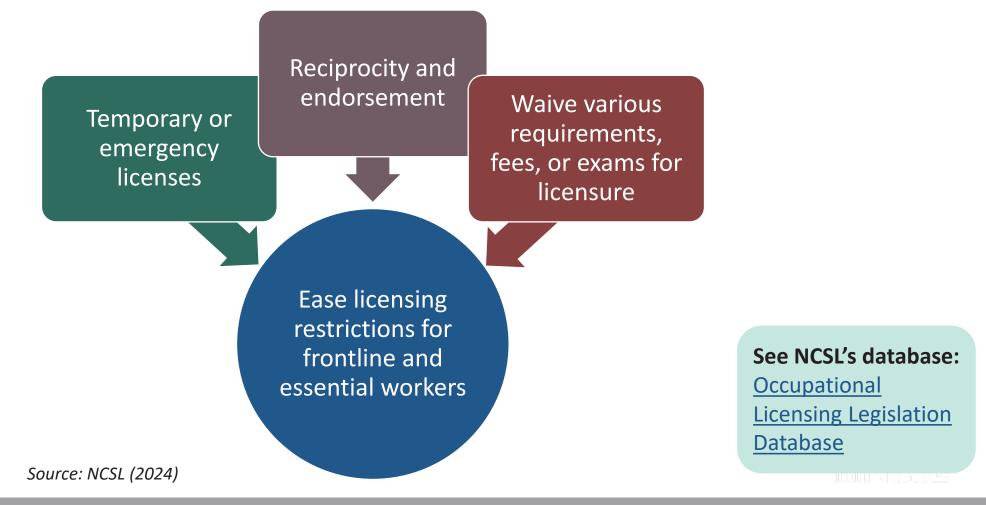




- 62 state medical boards conduct criminal background checks as a condition of initial licensure.
- 59 state medical boards require fingerprints as a condition of initial licensure.
- 60 state medical boards have access to the Federal Bureau of Investigation database.

Source: NCSL (2024) and <u>Criminal Background Checks, Board-by-Board Overview</u>, Federation of State Medical Boards (June 2023)

Licensure Portability: State Policy Options



Temporary Licenses: COVID-19 Emergency Proclamations

ALABAMA

- The <u>Alabama Board of Medical Examiners</u>
 adopted emergency rules to allow for temporary
 emergency licenses for physicians, physicians
 assistants and anesthesiologist assistants in the
 state.
- The rules expired once the Governor declared state of emergency in the state was over.

MARYLAND

- Executive Order 21-03-09-02: Allowed health care practitioners licensed in another state to immediately practice in a Maryland health care facility.
- Rules extended until the 30th day after the state of emergency was lifted.

Reciprocity: Interstate Compacts

See NCSL's article: Are Interstate
Compacts an Answer to Health
Workforce Shortages? (Nov. 2023)

COMPACT	PROFESSION	PARTICIPATION
Interstate Medical Licensure Compact	Physicians	39 states, D.C. and Guam
Nurse Licensure Compact	Registered nurses and licensed practical nurses	41 states, Virgin Islands and Guam
Physical Therapy Compact	Physical therapists	36 states and D.C.
Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT)	Psychologists	40 states
EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact	Emergency medical technicians and paramedics	22 states
<u>Audiologists and Speech-Language</u> <u>Pathologists Compact</u>	Audiologists and speech-language pathologists	25 states
Counseling Compact	Professional counselors	29 states

Source: NCSL (2024)



Other Licensure Portability Measures

Reciprocity Agreements, Limited Licensure and Registration Processes

D.C., MARYLAND & VIRGINIA

DMV Reciprocity Pathway

Allows the D.C., Maryland and Virginia boards of medicine to facilitate the expedited reciprocity licensure of physicians practicing within the three jurisdictions.

IDAHO

Idaho Stat. 54-5713

Does not require a license for virtual care when a physician:

- Is licensed in good standing in another state.
- Has an established patient-provider relationship.
- Provides temporary or short-term follow-up care.
- Provides care in a time of disaster.
- Consults or refers to an Idaho licensed provider.

ARIZONA

Ariz. Rev. Stat. Sec. 36-3606

Does not require license for telehealth services when a physician:

- Registers annually and pays associated fees.
- Holds current, valid, unrestricted license in another state.
- Complies with all applicable laws and requirements.
- Follows Arizona's standards of care.



COLORADO (2022)

Established the IMG Assistance Program and Clinical Readiness Program.

<u>IDAHO</u> (2023)

Provided temporary registration of IMGs who are forcibly displaced persons.

International Medical Graduates

MINNESOTA (2015)

Established the <u>IMG</u>
<u>Graduate Program</u> to address barriers to practice.

TENNESSEE (2023)

Established a temporary license to IMGs who meet certain requirements.

Graduate Medical Education

See NCSL's brief:

Graduate Medical Education Funding (Nov. 2023)

MEDICAID FUNDING

- Florida appropriated \$97.3 million to its GME Statewide Medicaid Residency Program and \$100 million to its GME Startup Bonus Program in 2021.
- **New Mexico** <u>created</u> a GME expansion grant program to establish and expand residency programs for specialties in 2019.

STATE APPROPRIATIONS

- **Iowa** <u>appropriated funding for nine additional residency positions</u> and up to two fellowships administered by the University of Iowa hospitals in 2023.
- Nevada <u>established a Graduate Medical Education Grant Program</u> in 2023 to create, expand or retain accredited programs for physician residency training and postdoctoral fellowships.

NCSL RESOURCES:

- NCSL Forecast '24 Special Report
- Health Workforce Resources
- Graduate Medical Education
 Funding Brief
- Scope of Practice Legislation Database
- Occupational Licensing Legislation Database
- Health Costs, Coverage and Delivery Legislation Database



Reach out anytime!



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