

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN NURSING**

Licensure Policy 10-03

Title	Expedited Processing of Reciprocal License Applications in Response to Disease Outbreak or Other Critical Public Health Concern.
Purpose	The Board of Registration in Nursing (Board) adopts this policy to establish its plan to expedite the processing of reciprocal license applications for nurses at the direction of the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health (Commissioner), provided the Commissioner determines there are or will be insufficient nurses in Massachusetts to properly respond to disease outbreak or other critical public health concern.
Date Adopted/Revised	July 14, 2010 (adopted); May 23, 2011 ⁱ ; November 9, 2011 ⁱⁱ ; December 10, 2014 ⁱⁱⁱ ; March 11, 2020 ^{iv} , May 11, 2022
Policy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At the direction of the Commissioner, the Board’s Executive Director or their designee will immediately notify the Vice President of Operations at Virtual Inc. also known as Professional Credential Services (PCS) or their designee. Such notification to PCS will be made in writing by email and by telephone. 2. The direction from the Commissioner will trigger the implementation of the following plan for expedited processing of reciprocal licensure applications: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. PCS will accept applications and required documents online. b. <u>Fees and fee payment:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular licensure fees made by individual applicants can be made by credit card (VISA or Master Card only). Cash and personal checks will <u>not</u> be accepted. • There will be <u>no</u> waiver of any required fees except as required by M.G.L. c. 112, §1B. c. <u>Application processing:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant must submit a complete electronic application form and required fee. The supporting documentation is not required for conditional approval. • Applicant must hold a license in good standing in another state. • Applicant must attest they have never been denied licensure, subjected to disciplinary action by any local, state, or national bodies; do not have a record of felony or misdemeanor conviction or guilty plea; and are not the subject of an open or pending disciplinary matter or criminal case. • PCS will verify licensure, disciplinary history, and NCLEX result in NURSYS. • For non NURSYS states, PCS must receive verification of nurse licensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Applicants must complete the “Verification of

	<p>Nurse Licensure by Reciprocity”, enclosing the appropriate verification fee and submit directly to the board of nursing in the non NURSYS state.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PCS will verify the applicant’s license by accessing the state nursing board’s licensure verification website. ○ If PCS is able to verify licensure with the non-NURSYS states by primary source verification the applicant may be licensed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Following receipt of completed application form and fee, PCS will verify licensure and conditionally approve the licensure application within three (3) business days. ● PCS must receive from the applicant all licensure requirements, including supporting documentation, within 90 days or the conditional approval will be withdrawn and the license marked “expired.” ● The conditional approval authorizes full, unrestricted practice and will remain in effect until the Board approves the application, denies the application, or expires the conditional approval because applicant did not submit supporting documentation to PCS within 90 days. <p>3. The names of applicants issued conditional approval will appear immediately in the Check-A-License section of the Board’s website at www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn where licensure can be verified.</p>
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ⁱ Clerical correction only.

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ⁱⁱⁱ CHAPTER 17. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH Section 2A. Powers of commissioner upon declaration of emergency

Section 2A. Upon declaration by the governor that an emergency exists which is detrimental to the public health, the commissioner may, with the approval of the governor and the public health council, during such period of emergency, take such action and incur such liabilities as he may deem necessary to assure the maintenance of public health and the prevention of disease. The commissioner, with the approval of the public health council, may establish procedures to be followed during such emergency to insure the continuation of essential public health services and the enforcement of the same. Upon declaration by the governor that such emergency has terminated, all powers granted to and exercised by the commissioner under this section shall terminate.

^{iv} Revised