COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN NURSING

Licensure Policy 10 – 03

Title	Expedited Processing of Reciprocal License Applications in the Event of a Declared Public Health Emergency
Purpose	The Board of Registration in Nursing adopts this policy to establish its plan to expedite the processing of reciprocal license applications for nurses that are licensed in another jurisdiction to meet emergent needs in Massachusetts in the event of a declared public health emergency.
Date Adopted	July 14, 2010 (adopted); May 23, 2011[i]; November 9, 2011[ii]; December 10, 2014[iii]; March 2020
Policy	1. Upon the receipt that notification of a public health emergency has been declared in accordance with M.G.L. c. 17 §2A *iv*, the Board's Executive Director or his/her designee will immediately notify the Vice President of Operations at Professional Credential Services (PCS) or his/her designee. Such notification to PCS will be made in writing by email and by telephone. 2. This notification will trigger the implementation of the following plan for expedited processing of reciprocal licensure applications (applications): a. PCS will accept completed applications and required documents online. b. Fees and fee payment: • Regular licensure fees made by individual applicants can be made by credit card (VISA or Master Card only). Cash and personal checks will not be accepted. • There will be no waiver of any required fees except as required by M.G.L. c. 112, §1B c. Application processing: • PCS will process reciprocal applications that meet the current nurse licensure requirements at 244 CMR 8.04 within one (1) business day of its receipt of **fully completed application and all required documents and fees.** • As a National Council of States Boards of Nursing (NCSBN)-approved responder, PCS will verify licensure in NURSYS participating states. • For **non** NURSYS states, PCS must receive verification of nurse licensure o Applicants must complete the "Verification of Nurse Licensure by Reciprocity", enclosing the appropriate verification fee and submit directly to the board of nursing in the non NURSYS state.

- 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.

- A reciprocal licensure applicant whose language of nursing instruction or textbooks or both was not English must provide proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has achieved a minimum required score on a Board-designated test of English proficiency establish by the Board's Licensure Policy 06-01.

- All reciprocal licensure applicants must demonstrate compliance with the Good Moral Character Licensure Requirement established by the Board's Licensure Policy 00-10 in order to be processed according to this plan. Applicants who answer "yes" to any of the "good moral character" related questions will not be processed in this expedited manner. There will be no exceptions.

3. The names of applicants deemed qualified for reciprocal licensure 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.

Incomplete applications will not be processed in this expedited manner.

[i] Clerical correction only.
[ii] Clerical correction only.
[iii] Clerical correction only.

iv 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.