



Oregon Center for
N U R S I N G

Testimony for the House Committee on Behavioral Health And Health Care

On House Bill 4136

Jana Bitton, MPA
Executive Director, Oregon Center for Nursing
jana.bitton@oregoncenterfornursing.org

February 7, 2024

Section 3 of HB-4136 mandates that the Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN) grant a provisional license to nurse applicants at the time they submit their application for an Oregon nursing license. This provisional license permits applicants to work at the licensure level (for instance, LPN or RN) for which they are applying until they receive their official nursing license.

Granting a provisional license upon application addresses a significant challenge frequently discussed during the [Friday Huddle](#), a series of weekly video conferences with nurses and nursing leadership across the state, facilitated by the Oregon Center for Nursing.

Feedback during these sessions consistently highlights the prolonged wait times nurses face to obtain their licenses post-application. The OSBN's previous authority to issue emergency authorizations during the public health crisis enabled nurses from other states to commence work shortly after application. However, with the cessation of this emergency power, the delay in licensure and the resultant impact on starting employment in Oregon have become a pressing concern.

Enabling the OSBN to provide a provisional license immediately upon application effectively tackles this recurring issue. It supports urgent staffing needs by streamlining the process for Oregon employers to hire nurses from other states, thereby enhancing the state's healthcare responsiveness.