



## House Bill 6: Temporary RN and LPN Nursing Licenses Effective May 14, 2021, through July 1, 2021

In response to the COVID-19 emergency, HB 6 suspends, until July 1, 2021, the law requiring an applicant for Licensure by Examination to have passed the NCLEX examination. HB 6 temporary license holders will be authorized **until July 1, 2021**, to practice prior to taking and passing the NCLEX. The law requires the Board to issue HB 6 temporary licenses to all applicants who meet the following requirements:

- Completion of a nursing education program no more than two years before the date of submitting the Licensure by Examination application.
- No prior NCLEX failure in any state or NCSBN jurisdiction.
- A criminal records check (the individual cannot be licensed if convicted of, pleaded guilty to, or has a judicial finding of guilt for any felony).
- The individual has taken a drug test and failed that test, as determined by the Board.

*If you are issued a HB 6 temporary license and do not pass the NCLEX on or before July 1, 2021, your HB 6 license will be closed, and you will no longer be licensed to practice based on the temporary license.* However, the July 1 date does not affect your eligibility to take the NCLEX examination. Please see the FAQs below for additional information.

During the brief period the law is in effect, thousands of nurses will be temporarily licensed for various time periods depending on when their applications were received by the Board, including criminal background checks and program completion letters.

When applicants who have been issued a HB 6 temporary license pass the NCLEX on or prior to July 1, the license to practice nursing in Ohio will be updated with a new expiration date of October 31, 2021.

The effective date of Ohio nursing licenses may be verified on the Ohio eLicense verification system: [https://elicense.ohio.gov/oh\\_verifylicense](https://elicense.ohio.gov/oh_verifylicense).

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q:** What happens if I have the temporary license, but I do not pass the NCLEX on or before July 1, 2021?

**A:** If you are issued a HB 6 temporary license but are not able to take or pass the NCLEX on or before July 1, 2021, your license will be closed in accordance with Ohio law. On or shortly after July 2, 2021, your license status will be changed to “closed/abandoned” with an expiration date of July 1, 2021. You will no longer be able to practice as a nurse based on the HB 6 temporary license. However, the July 1 date does not affect your eligibility to take the NCLEX licensing examination.

**Q:** I have received an authorization to test (ATT). What happens to the ATT if I do not take the NCLEX on or before July 1, 2021?

**A:** You may use your current authorization to test (ATT) after July 1, 2021, but you must submit a new Licensure by Examination application because the Board must issue you a new license that is unrelated to the HB 6 temporary license. **You must re-apply under these circumstances on or after July 2, 2021**, to be licensed after passing the NCLEX. If you have an active ATT, the Board will refund the application fee to your credit card which will be reflected on your credit card statement.

You will not be required to re-submit documents as part of the re-application process; the only exception to this is if your criminal record checks expired. If expired, you must re-submit them. The key to obtaining a license at this point is dependent on following these steps and passing the NCLEX.

If you do NOT pass the NCLEX, you must re-apply to the Board and take the NCLEX to be licensed, and you will be responsible for application and Pearson Vue fees.

**Q:** I previously had a HB 197 temporary license, but it was closed on March 1, 2021, because I did not take the NCLEX. I applied again and am currently exam eligible but have not taken the NCLEX. Am I eligible for the HB 6 temporary license?

**A:** If you have not failed NCLEX and you completed your nursing education program no more than two years prior to submitting your current application, you may be eligible for the HB 6 temporary license.

**Q:** Can I choose to not receive a HB 6 temporary license?

**A:** No. Ohio law requires the Board to issue HB 6 temporary licenses to all qualified applicants.

**Q:** Will other states authorize license reciprocity (endorsement) in their state based on the Ohio HB 6 temporary license?

**A:** Passing the NCLEX is a requirement for licensure in every jurisdiction. Further, most states will not approve reciprocity in their state for a license issued without passing the NCLEX examination. You need to contact the state board of nursing in the state where you are seeking reciprocity for their specific requirements. The nursing board in each individual state makes the final licensure determination based on their licensing laws and administrative rules.

**Q:** What happens to my HB 6 temporary license if I fail the NCLEX prior to July 1, 2021?

**A:** Upon the Board's notification that you failed NCLEX, your license will be closed and is no longer active or valid. The practice of nursing without a valid license is a criminal offense and grounds for possible disciplinary action. You must submit a new application and pass the NCLEX to receive a new Ohio license.

**Q:** Does the HB 6 temporary license place limitations on my nursing practice?

**A:** No. It is a valid license that authorizes practice as an RN or LPN until July 1, 2021.

**Q:** How will my employer know that I have a HB 6 temporary license?

**A:** Your license can be verified through the Ohio eLicense system. Go to [www.nursing.ohio.gov](http://www.nursing.ohio.gov) and click on the "License Search" button on the front page. An HB 6 temporary license will have an expiration date of July 1, 2021.

**Q:** How will my employer know if I pass the NCLEX and am legally authorized to practice?

**A:** When a HB 6 temporary license holder passes NCLEX, your expiration date in the Ohio eLicense system changes. If you are a RN, the expiration date will be October 31, 2021. For LPNs, the expiration date will be October 31, 2022.

### **Public Protection and Program Completion Letters/Transcripts**

In balancing public safety and issuing licenses, the law requires that the Board receive Program Completion Letters from Ohio nursing education programs, or official transcripts from out-of-state programs, to show that the applicant successfully completed the program. This assures that the applicants, although they have not passed the NCLEX, have obtained the required education to engage in nursing practice. This also prevents imposters from obtaining licenses.

### **License Reciprocity (Endorsement)**

Passing the NCLEX is a requirement for licensure license in every jurisdiction. Further, most states will not approve reciprocity in their state for a license issued without passing the NCLEX examination.

Contact the state board of nursing in the state where you are seeking reciprocity for their specific requirements. The nursing board in each individual state makes the final licensure determination based on their licensing laws and administrative rules.