

IONL Legislative Annual Members Report October 2022

2022 Indiana Legislative Session

2022 was a “short session” and was not a budget year, but there were several bills that were of interest to nursing. The legislative committee met in Q1 of 2022 to review the docket of bills of interest to nursing and developed suggested IONL position statements that were taken to the IONL board and voted upon. The bill which was most impactful to nursing was HB 1003 also known as the “Nursing Indiana Back to Health Bill.”

The Legislative Committee had robust discussion on this bill and the proposals contained within. There was good dialogue between those in practice and those in academic settings. The IONL positions which were suggested and were adopted by IONL by each provision in the bill were as follows:

- Allowance for additional methods of certification for licensure for Foreign Educated Nurses outside of the GCFNS exam.
 - **Recommended IONL position: to support this provision.**
- Reduction of the preceptor requirement from 3 years to 18 months
 - **Recommended IONL position: to support this provision.**
- Allowance for schools that are established for more than 5 years to expand enrollment without approval from the IBON.
 - **Recommended IONL position: to support this provision.**
- Allowance for increase in the full time/part time faculty mix
 - **Recommended IONL position: to support changing the mix of FT and PT faculty, but to advise deferment to academic organizations on the ideal percentage.**
- Increase in allowable simulation hours toward student clinical hour requirement to 50% with applicable NCLEX pass rate
 - **Recommended IONL position: to support allowing increase in clinical simulation but to advise deferment to academic organizations on the ideal percentage.**
- Permanent provision that AD programs can allow bachelor prepared nurses to teach provided they are completing a master’s degree.
 - **Recommended IONL position: to support the permanent removal of this regulation and suggest the term “nationally accredited” in alignment with the ISNA statement.**

This bill received several amendments and was eventually passed into law. Final provisions of this bill were as follows:

- Allowance for additional methods of certification for licensure for Foreign Educated Nurses outside of the GCFNS exam.

- Reduction of the preceptor requirement from 3 years to 18 months
- Allowance for schools that are established for more than 5 years to expand enrollment without approval from the IBON.
- Allowance for increase in the full time/part time faculty mix for AD programs only
- Increase in allowable simulation hours toward student clinical hour requirement to 50% with applicable NCLEX pass rate
- Permanent provision that AD programs can allow bachelor prepared nurses to teach provided they are completing a master's degree.

Several other position statements were developed with proposed legislation, but testimony was not needed as the proposals died in committee or were amended so that the concerns were alleviated. We will plan to use the same process of meeting to discuss proposed IONL position statements during the 2023 session.

IONL Advocacy Day

Given the Omicron surge, the short session, and the lack of protective measures in place at the statehouse, the Legislative committee decided not to have an in-person advocacy day during the 2022 session at the statehouse. We will hope to resume this developmental offering during the 2023 session.

Indiana Coalition for Patient-Centered Care

Work continued with the Indiana Coalition for Patient-Centered Care this year. IONL has a board seat on the coalition which was founded in response to the ISMA's Indiana Physician Coalition position statement outlining the thought that the only leader of the healthcare team should be the physician. Started by CAPNI, the Indiana Coalition for Patient-Centered Care has organized with several founding members and has released a purpose statement and a response letter to the ISMA position statement. Full details can be found at: <https://indianapatient.org/>

AONL Advocacy Day

AONL advocacy day remained virtual this year and was held September 13-14 2022. Several IONL members represented IONL in the virtual format with federal legislators. Advocacy topic included initiatives related to strengthening the nursing workforce and bolstering public health.

Preparation for 2023 General Assembly Session

The legislative committee will reconvene in Q4 2022 – Q1 2023 to prepare for the upcoming legislative session. Once bills are released, we will use the same process of developing proposed IONL position statements for full board approval. We will also help to prepare those interested in giving testimony (if needed). If you are interested in learning more about the legislative committee, please contact Jason Gilbert at jgilbert1@iuhealth.org

Respectfully Submitted

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