

STATE NURSING BOARD STRUCTURES

Boards of nursing are responsible for establishing the standards for safe nursing care and issuing licenses to practice nursing. The structure of state nursing boards within state government varies from board to board. According to a survey conducted by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc., the 50 state and District of Columbia boards of nursing are structured as follows:

- Nursing boards in 27 states are established as an independent state agency or entity.
- Nursing boards in 19 states and the District of Columbia operate under an “umbrella” state agency.
- Nursing boards in four states are semi-independent agencies or partially affiliated with a state agency.

INDEPENDENT NURSING BOARDS

Alabama Board of Nursing.
Arizona State Board of Nursing.
Arkansas State Board of Nursing.
California State Board of Registered Nursing.
Idaho Board of Nursing.
Iowa Board of Nursing.
Kansas State Board of Nursing.
Kentucky Board of Nursing.
Louisiana State Board of Nursing.
Maryland Board of Nursing.
Minnesota Board of Nursing.
Mississippi State Board of Nursing.
Missouri State Board of Nursing.
Montana State Board of Nursing.
Nevada State Board of Nursing.
New Hampshire Board of Nursing.
New Jersey Board of Nursing.
New Mexico Board of Nursing.
North Carolina Board of Nursing.
North Dakota Board of Nursing.
Ohio Board of Nursing.
Oklahoma Board of Nursing.
Oregon State Board of Nursing.
South Dakota Board of Nursing.
Texas Board of Nurse Examiners.
West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses.
Wyoming State Board of Nursing.

NURSING BOARDS CONSOLIDATED UNDER AN “UMBRELLA” STATE AGENCY	
Nursing Board	“Umbrella” State Agency
Alaska Board of Nursing	Department of Community and Economic Development, Division of Occupational Licensing
Colorado Board of Nursing	Department of Regulatory Agencies, Division of Registrations
Delaware Board of Nursing	Department of Administrative Services, Division of Professional Regulation
District of Columbia Board of Nursing	Department of Health
Georgia Board of Nursing	Secretary of State

NURSING BOARDS CONSOLIDATED UNDER AN "UMBRELLA" STATE AGENCY	
Nursing Board	"Umbrella" State Agency
Hawaii Board of Nursing	Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Division of Professional and Vocational Licensing
Illinois Board of Nursing	Department of Professional Regulation
Indiana State Board of Nursing	Health Professions Bureau
Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing	Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation, Division of Professional Licensure
Michigan Board of Nursing	Department of Community Health
Nebraska Board of Nursing	Health and Human Services System, Department of Regulation and Licensure
New York State Board of Nursing	New York State Education Department, Office of the Professions
Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing	Department of State
Rhode Island Board of Nursing	Department of Health, Division of Health Services Regulation
South Carolina State Board of Nursing	Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation
Tennessee State Board of Nursing	Department of Health
Utah State Board of Nursing	Department of Commerce, Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing
Vermont State Board of Nursing	Secretary of State
Virginia Board of Nursing	Department of Health Professions
Wisconsin Board of Nursing	Department of Regulation and Licensing
SEMI-INDEPENDENT NURSING BOARDS	
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing	A semi-independent agency within the Department of Public Health
Florida Board of Nursing	An independent agency; however, the staff is employed through the Department of Health
Maine State Board of Nursing	An independent agency that is affiliated with the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation
Washington State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission	Partners with the Department of Health under an operational agreement