

Nevada State Board of NURSING

March 18, 2016

Megan Comlossy
Legislative Committee on Health Care
Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau
401 S. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

RE: APRNs in Rural Counties and Fingerprinting

Dear Legislative Committee on Health Care Committee Members:

This letter is written to provide additional information, as promised, regarding the Nevada State Board of Nursing's knowledge of Advance Practice Registered Nurses in rural counties and ability to collect fingerprints from licensure applicants for purposes of obtaining the applicants Criminal History Record Information.

AB170

Assembly Bill 170 was an Assembly Bill passed in the 2013 legislative session regarding the advanced practice of nursing. AB170 changed the professional title of Advanced Practitioner of Nursing (APN) to Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). Additionally, the bill removed the requirement for an APRN to maintain a collaborative agreement with a physician and allows APRNs to practice to the fullest extent of their nationally recognized scope of practice based upon their education, competency level within a designated role and population focus.

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses in Rural Counties

There are currently 1,343 APRNs licensed to practice in the State of Nevada. Of those, 222 of the APRNs list their address of record as being outside of the State of Nevada. Of the 1,121 APRNs who list their address of record as being in the State of Nevada, 748 live in Clark County and 283 live in Washoe County. This leaves 90 APRNs who live in the rural Nevada counties. Attached are tables and graphs expanding on this information for each specific county from the 2009/2010 fiscal year to present.

Nevada State Board of NURSING

Electronic Transmission (Livescan) or Hard Copy

Once the Nevada State Board of Nursing (NSBN), or any other regulatory board with the proper statutory ability, receives an applicant's fingerprints those fingerprints are forwarded to the Nevada Department of Public Safety (DPS) for processing. Nevada DPS conducts its own search of any Criminal History Record Information connected to those fingerprints for the State of Nevada. Nevada DPS also forwards the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for a search of any Criminal History Record Information connected to those fingerprints at the multi-state and federal levels. Thus, two results of Criminal History Record Information, positive or negative, are sent to the requesting regulatory board. Those fingerprint results are sent by U.S. mail or state mail and are in a written format.

If an applicant has their fingerprints captured electronically, those fingerprints are sent electronically to DPS, and then electronically to the FBI. If an applicant has their fingerprints printed onto a hard copy card, the card is mailed to DPS. However prior to conducting a Criminal History Record Information search, the fingerprints found on the hard copy card are converted into an electronic format by DPS.

The electronic transmission fingerprinting process is faster. However, the electronic transmission of fingerprints for the State of Nevada is only available within the State of Nevada per DPS. Applicants who are submitting fingerprints from outside the State of Nevada are required to use hard copy cards. Anecdotally, the vast majority of applicants who are submitting fingerprints from outside Nevada are applicants who already have a license in another state and are therefore applying for licensure by endorsement. These applicants are usually eligible for temporary license during the wait for permanent license to issue.

Additionally, the electronic transmission fingerprinting process is more accurate. Occasionally, fingerprints captured with ink and rolled onto a hard copy card are rejected by DPS and/or the FBI. Fingerprints captured electronically, on the other hand, can be evaluated at the time of the fingerprint capture for the possibility of rejection. Applicants whose fingerprints are rejected are required to have their fingerprints redone on a hard copy card, which will cause a further delay.

Capturing fingerprints

NSBN received a grant of \$39,673 for the purchase of two electronic transmission fingerprint capture machines, one for the NSBN Reno office and one for the NSBN Las Vegas office. Therefore, fingerprints for any applicant for any board can be captured at either NSBN office.

Nevada State Board of NURSING

Obtaining an electronic transmission fingerprint capture machine is only part of the process. A board which has a machine also has to obtain secure internet pathways for transmittal of the fingerprint information. Additionally, the board would have to assign an employee to staff the machine. NSBN hired two full time employees, one to utilize each fingerprinting machine, due to the number of applicants using the fingerprinting service. Each employee is required to complete fingerprinting requirements per DPS and receives specialized training on utilizing the machine. Finally, the board has to be prepared for the DPS and FBI inspections which occur every three years.

NSBN's ability to fingerprint any applicant

NSBN can fingerprint anyone. However, due to the number of fingerprints done on a daily basis, appointments are required. Additionally, NSBN can only submit electronic transmission fingerprints on its own behalf, due to the configurations of the machines. Consumers who wish to fingerprint for another organization or agency may have fingerprints captured electronically and then printed on to the hard copy card at either NSBN office.

NSBN's process for fingerprinting applicants

Generally speaking, fingerprints are snapshot into a person's criminal history. This snapshot is valid up to the instant the fingerprints are taken and received by DPS and the FBI. NSBN will accept hard copy fingerprint cards, which were printed up to one year previously. NSBN cannot "hold" any fingerprints at its locations. Fingerprints are received and sent to DPS. Criminal History Record Information is received by NSBN from DPS. After Criminal History Record Information is received and processed by NSBN the report is shredded. NSBN cannot "hold" Criminal History Record Information at either office.

NSBN tells every graduating class of nursing students to apply early (applications are valid for one year). Then, students should fingerprint two to three months before they graduate.

Sincerely,



Cathy Dinauer, MSN, RN

Executive Director

Nevada State Board of Nursing

Nevada State Board of Nursing
Active Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs)
by County of Residence and Fiscal Year (FY)

County of Residence	Total Active FY 09/10	Total Active FY 10/11	Total Active FY 11/12	Total Active FY 12/13	Total Active FY 13/14	Total Active FY 14/15	Total Active FY 15/16 Year to Date
Carson City	21	22	24	23	21	22	24
Chrchill	2	3	3	3	3	5	3
Clark	339	367	394	483	578	646	748
Douglas	14	14	17	19	19	22	24
Elko	11	12	13	13	13	14	17
Esmeralda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eureka	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Humboldt	1	1	2	3	6	5	5
Lander	0	0	0	1	1	2	3
Lincoln	1	2	2	1	1	1	1
Lyon	7	7	8	7	7	6	6
Mineral	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nye	5	3	3	3	4	5	3
Pershing	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Storey	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Washoe	186	197	207	228	248	263	283
White Pine	1	2	1	1	1	2	2
Out of State	76	66	86	95	149	190	222
Total Active	664	696	760	880	1053	1185	1343

FY is July 1 through June 30

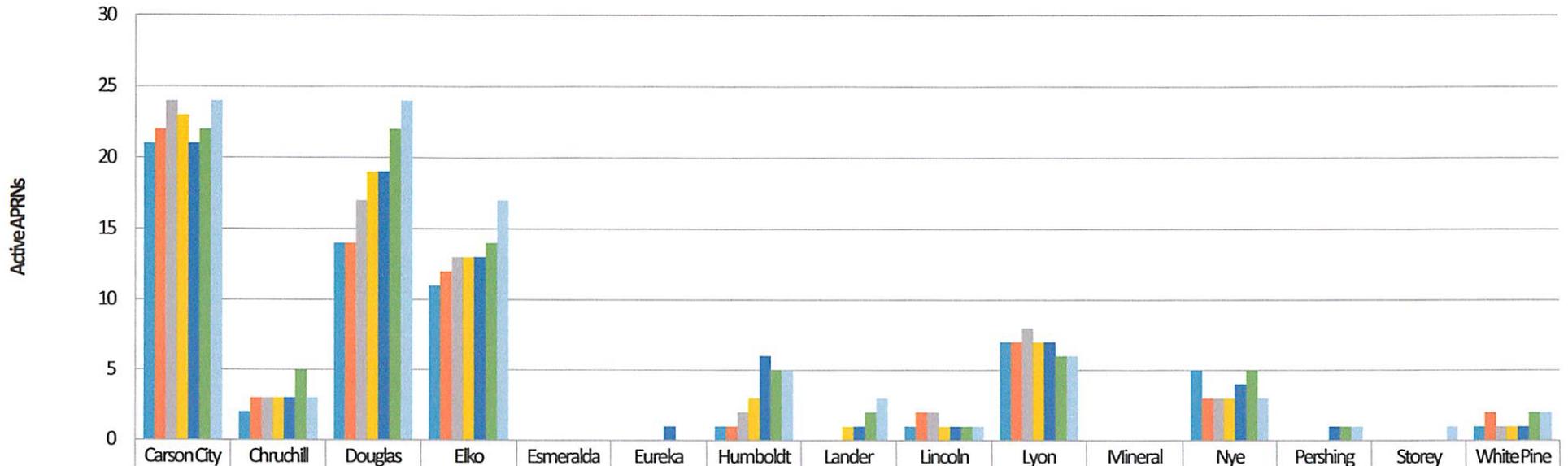
FY Year to Date is July 1 through March 17, 2016

**Nevada State Board of Nursing
Active Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs)
by County of Residence and Fiscal Year (YR)**



	Carson City	Churchill	Clark	Douglas	Elko	Esmeralda	Eureka	Humboldt	Lander	Lincoln	Lyon	Mineral	Nye	Pershing	Storey	Washoe	White Pine	Out of State
FY09/10	21	2	339	14	11	0	0	1	0	1	7	0	5	0	0	186	1	76
FY10/11	22	3	367	14	12	0	0	1	0	2	7	0	3	0	0	197	2	66
FY11/12	24	3	394	17	13	0	0	2	0	2	8	0	3	0	0	207	1	86
FY12/13	23	3	483	19	13	0	0	3	1	1	7	0	3	0	0	228	1	95
FY13/14	21	3	578	19	13	0	1	6	1	1	7	0	4	1	0	248	1	149
FY14/15	22	5	646	22	14	0	0	5	2	1	6	0	5	1	0	263	2	190
FY15/16 YTD	24	3	748	24	17	0	0	5	3	1	6	0	3	1	1	283	2	222

Nevada State Board of Nursing Active Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) by County of Residence in Rural Nevada and Fiscal Year (YR)



	Carson City	Churchill	Douglas	Elko	Esmeralda	Eureka	Humboldt	Lander	Lincoln	Lyon	Mineral	Nye	Pershing	Storey	White Pine
FY09/10	21	2	14	11	0	0	1	0	1	7	0	5	0	0	1
FY10/11	22	3	14	12	0	0	1	0	2	7	0	3	0	0	2
FY11/12	24	3	17	13	0	0	2	0	2	8	0	3	0	0	1
FY12/13	23	3	19	13	0	0	3	1	1	7	0	3	0	0	1
FY13/14	21	3	19	13	0	1	6	1	1	7	0	4	1	0	1
FY14/15	22	5	22	14	0	0	5	2	1	6	0	5	1	0	2
FY15/16YTD	24	3	24	17	0	0	5	3	1	6	0	3	1	1	2