

The Virgin Islands Consortium

AARP VI-Supported Bill Establishing the NLC to Create a Multistate Nursing License in the VI Becomes Law

Community Center / **Published On December 15, 2021 06:23 AM /**

Staff Consortium **December 15, 2021**



Bill No. 34-0040, an Act to Establish the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) to create a Multistate Nursing License in the Virgin Islands, a measure supported by AARP in The Virgin Islands, was approved by the Health, Hospitals, and Human Services Committee and the Committee on Rules and Judiciary earlier in the year and signed into law by Governor Albert Bryan Jr. on December 6.

AARP thanked the bill's Sponsor Senator Kurt Vialet. AARP also thanked the Members of the Health, Hospitals and Human Services Committee, the VI Legislature and all those who made the passage of the Bill possible.

Bill No. 34-0040 will allow for nurse compact licensure to improve the retention and recruitment of nurses to the Virgin Islands, ultimately increasing access to healthcare. The enacting of the Bill will attract more health care professionals to the territory addressing nurse shortages and allow nurses to practice in other Nurse Licensure Compact states and or territories without obtaining additional licenses.

AARP said the territory continues to need more nurses at its hospitals, and with the COVID-19 pandemic, many of the nurses already at the hospital have had to work additional long hours to fill in the void of the open positions. Bill 34-0040 will provide for accepting nurses from states that are also involved in the Nurse Licensure Compact more quickly without getting re-licensed. Interest from qualified professionals who want to work in the Virgin Islands will increase. Nurses' native of the VI working in the US mainland will have the opportunity to obtain employment and return to the territory, AARP said.

AARP in The Virgin Islands said it continues to make the Virgin Islands a livable community for older adults and residents of all ages. Health Services and Community Support is one of the Eight Domains of Livability, a framework used by many towns, cities, counties, and states enrolled in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. Under this domain, AARP works for residents to access and afford the services required to stay healthy. As AARP in The Virgin Islands works to increase access to healthcare, our support of passage of this Bill was essential.