Mandatory licensure.

According to the Iowa Code in relation to the practice of nursing:

655—3.2(17A,147,152,272C)

“3.2(1) A person who practices nursing in the state of Iowa as defined in Iowa Code section 152.1, outside of one’s family, shall have a current Iowa license, whether or not the employer is in Iowa and whether or not the person receives compensation. The nurse shall maintain a copy of the license and shall have it available for inspection when engaged in the practice of nursing in Iowa.”

“3.2(2) Current Iowa licensure is not mandatory when:

a. A nurse who resides in another party state is recognized for licensure in this state pursuant to the nurse licensure compact contained in Iowa Code chapter 152E. The nurse shall maintain a copy of the license and shall have it available for inspection when engaged in the practice of nursing in Iowa.”

“3.2(3) A nurse who is enrolled in an approved nursing program shall hold an active license in the U.S. jurisdiction(s) in which the nurse provides patient care.”

Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC)

According to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) “The mutual recognition model of nurse licensure allows a nurse to have one license (in his or her state of residency) and to practice in other states (both physical and electronic), subject to each state's practice law and regulation. Under mutual recognition, a nurse may practice across state lines unless otherwise restricted.”

The nurse must legally reside in a NLC state to be eligible to have a multi-state license. The following states bordering Iowa ascribe to the NLC: South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska, and Wisconsin. The following bordering states do not ascribe to the NLC: Minnesota, Kansas, Illinois, and Missouri.

According to the Iowa Board of Nursing (IBON) “In order to practice nursing in Iowa nurses living in non-compact states may apply for an Iowa license by endorsement. The applicants MUST provide an Iowa or a Non-Compact state mailing address when applying for license by endorsement. If you reside in a state that is a member of the Nurse License Compact agreement and submit your application for licensure using that address, the application will be returned to you. Before applying for license by endorsement please ensure you have an Iowa or non-compact state address.”