

EXPIRATION OF THE LIMITED EMERGENCY LICENSES

Secondary to the public health emergency declared by Governor Henry McMaster pursuant to Executive Order No. 2020-08, and all subsequent executive orders reaffirming the same, the South Carolina State Board of Nursing authorized the use of a Limited Emergency License (LEL) for nurses who sought to practice in South Carolina to assist with the state's COVID-19 pandemic efforts. As set by the Board, the LEL is valid for fifteen (15) days before requiring renewal; however, during the pandemic, the Board automatically renewed the Limited Emergency Licenses until such time as the public health emergency ended.

On June 6, 2021, Executive Order No. 2021-25 declaring a public health emergency in South Carolina expired. Recognizing the need for medical care facilities to properly plan for the possible departure of nurses who have been practicing in the state on Limited Emergency Licenses, the Board granted those nurses practicing pursuant to an LEL one final fifteen (15) day renewal of these licenses. All Limited Emergency Licenses shall expire on June 20, 2021, and they cannot be extended beyond that date.

Nurses who wish to continue to practice in South Carolina must apply for permanent licensure or may continue to work on their multi-state licenses, if applicable. Nurses applying for permanent licensure may be entitled to a temporary license pursuant to South Carolina Code § 40-33-36(D)(1) for sixty (60) days.