

## Status Report: State Nurse Legislators 2020-2022

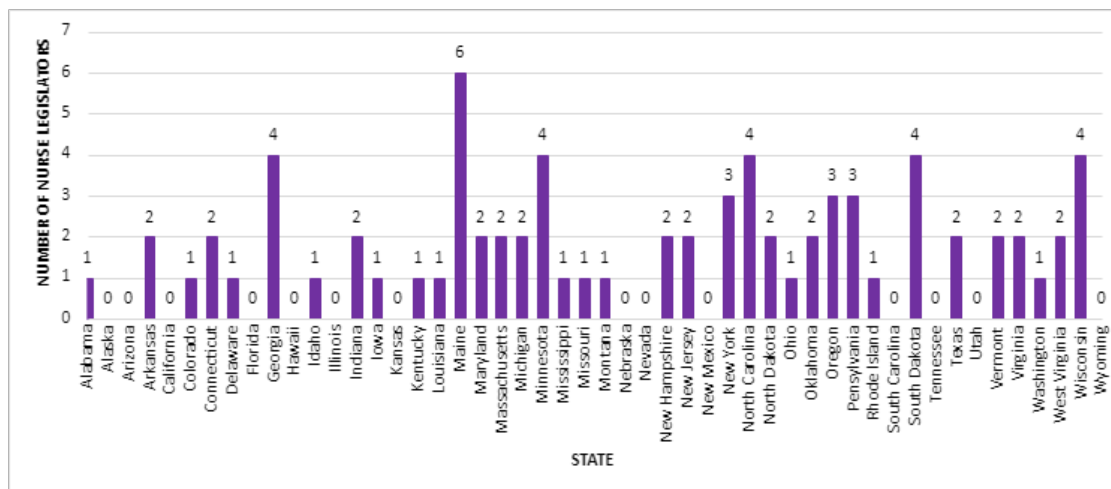
Darlene J. Curley EdD RN FAAN, Jeannie Hannan PhD, DipACLM, NBC-HWC

The role of Nurse policy makers is to be the voice of their constituents, develop and champion legislation to improve healthcare and advance the nursing profession. The 2020-2022 global pandemic has highlighted the critical importance of nurse leaders in policy and politics at the local, state, national and international levels.

In 2020-2022, there are 7,383 state legislators elected to serve in 50 states (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2021). How many of the 7,383 are nurse legislators? A January 2022 audit of State Legislatures found that there are currently 76 nurse legislators identified in 36 states. Of the current 76 State Nurse Legislators, 14 are senators; 62 are representatives; 37 are enrolled in the Democrat Party, 39 are enrolled in the Republican Party. Seventy three of the 76 are appointed to health-related committees, such as health & human services, public health, aging and elderly services, health insurance, health policy, healthcare finance & appropriations, mental health policy, healthcare reform, higher education, rehabilitation & social services, wellness, and discrimination prevention.

Fourteen states lack nurse policy makers: Alaska, Arizona, California, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, and Wyoming.

Number of Nurse Legislators by State, January 2022



The result of state primary elections will be finalized in late September, and provide the slate of state nurse legislators running for election on November 8, 2022.

#### Reference

National Conference of State Legislatures (2021). State Legislatures.

[Legislative News, Studies and Analysis | National Conference of State Legislatures \(ncsl.org\)](https://www.ncsl.org/legislative-news-studies-and-analysis)