



Virginia HB 1640 & SB 1178 Talking Points

Prepared by the Virginia Council of Nurse Practitioners

In 2018, The Virginia General Assembly passed HB 793, legislation that allows nurse practitioners (NPs) with 5 or more years of clinical experience to apply for autonomous practice licensure. This legislation allows NPs to practice to the full extent of their education and training, helping build the workforce necessary to meet Virginia's primary care needs.

As Virginia NPs transition to autonomous practice and provide the communities they serve with a full scope of health care services, reimbursement policies—across all payer entities—need to be updated to ensure that NP providers are still able to be reimbursed for services they already provide to patients.

Virginia HB 1640 and SB 1178 would ensure that NPs are able to bill insurance directly utilizing their National Provider Identification (NPI) number. Currently, many NPs bill through their collaborating physician's provider number, so this legislation simply allows the NP's provider number to replace the collaborating physician's.

This legislation is the next logical step following last year's legislation allowing autonomous practice. Without this change, patients could lose their access to needed care because of their inability to utilize their insurance.

Nurse practitioners provide comprehensive, cost-effective, high-quality health care services in diverse settings across the care and age continuum. NPs must receive equitable reimbursement from all payers to promote sustainable practice and access to care.