



Board of Nursing

Topic Selection Background Information

March 2022

Program Overview	The Minnesota Board of Nursing regulates nursing education, licensure, and practice. It receives and investigates complaints—for example, regarding the ability of individuals to practice nursing safely and with reasonable skill. The Board of Nursing has 16 members, appointed by the Governor, and it has about 35 employees.
Original Evaluation Questions	To what extent has the board implemented necessary changes in response to OLA’s 2015 evaluation? Has the board processed cases effectively and efficiently, and has the board been well managed? To what extent has the board met its responsibilities regarding the open meeting law, the data practices act, and licensing?
Revised Questions	Does the board process complaints effectively and efficiently? Does the board have policies and practices to ensure consistent, unbiased resolution of complaints? Does the board process licenses in a timely manner?
State Resources <i>Low</i>	In recent years, the board’s annual expenditures averaged about \$5 million.
State Control <i>High</i>	Board of Nursing members are appointed by the Governor, and the board’s staff are state employees.
Impact <i>Medium-High</i>	As of mid-2020, about 168,000 individuals were licensed by or registered with the Board of Nursing. The number of complaints received by the board annually averages more than 1,000.
Timeliness <i>Medium</i>	Some people have expressed concerns to OLA in the past year about the Board of Nursing’s management and complaint handling. However, OLA evaluated the board’s complaint resolution process in 2015, so another evaluation may not be pressing.
Feasibility <i>High</i>	OLA could evaluate the Board of Nursing with traditional evaluation methods.
Balance <i>Low</i>	The Legislative Audit Commission is not considering other topics related to state licensing boards, but it is considering other topics that pertain to health-related issues. OLA issued an evaluation of the Board of Nursing seven years ago.
Discussion <i>Not pressing</i>	This is a feasible topic for OLA to evaluate, and we did so several years ago. However, the need for OLA to conduct another review of this board’s complaint handling processes (or other activities) so soon after our 2015 evaluation is unclear.