



March 2, 2021

House Professions & Public Health Subcommittee  
412 House Office Building  
402 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Re: HB 7001 OGSR/Nurse Licensure Compact

The First Amendment Foundation writes in regard to House Bill 7001, scheduled to be heard by the House Professions & Public Health subcommittee on Wednesday, March 3, 2021.

FAF has no objection to Senate Bill 7001. However, we suggest that the bill be amended to provide a record of portions of meetings that would be closed under the exemption. Records of closed meetings are vitally important to ensure closed meetings are limited to those topics permitted to be private. We recommend an amendment requiring all exempt portions of meetings be recorded and transcribed, so that a court can determine whether the meeting was restricted to a discussion of the exempt information. We can provide sample language. Last year's SB 1170, lines 278-292, provides an example of language for recording exempt portions of meetings.

Please let us know whether we can provide any further information.

Best regards,

Pamela C. Marsh, President

cc: The Honorable Chris Spowls, Speaker, Florida House  
Jim Baltzelle, Associated Press, First Amendment Foundation, Chair  
Samuel Morley, General Counsel, Florida Press Association  
Lisa Nellesen Savage, Chair, Florida Society of News Editors

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