The earliest predecessor of the North Carolina Board of Nursing was the Board of Examiners of Trained Nurses of North Carolina. It was established by the General Assembly of 1903 for the purpose of maintaining a satisfactory level of competency within the nursing profession. Primary functions of the board involved the examination and licensing of qualified candidates. For due cause, the board could revoke a license following a full hearing and majority vote by the board. The five-member board consisted of two physicians and three registered nurses who were to be elected by the Medical Society of the State of North Carolina and the North Carolina State Nurses’ Association respectively. Members served terms of three years. In 1917 the legislature reestablished the board and made it identical in composition to its predecessor. Under terms of the new legislation, however, the board was empowered to frame and enforce regulations and to use its own seal.

The General Assembly of 1925 repealed the consolidated statutes pertaining to the board and recreated the board under the new name of Board of Nurse Examiners of North Carolina—later referred to in legislation as North Carolina Board of Nurse Examiners. Composed of five members, the board was to include three registered nurses elected by the North Carolina State Nurses’ Association, and one representative each from the North Carolina State Hospital Association and the Medical Society. The new board retained all powers granted its predecessors. Additionally, the legislature established a standards committee to advise the board on matters including he classification and standardization of schools of nursing.

In a legislative act of 1947, the General Assembly enlarged the board to include three practical nurses appointed by the Practical Nurses Association of Durham and the Undergraduate and Practical Nurses Organization, Inc. Their participation on the board however, was limited to matters relating...
to the examination, licensing, and regulation of undergraduate and practical nurses.

In 1953 the legislature repealed all codified statutes pertaining to the current board and created the North Carolina Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education. It consisted of nine members, all of whom were to be appointed and commissioned by the governor. Of these, five members were to be registered nurses who were licensed to practice within the state. Two members were to be physicians experienced in teaching nurses; and two were to be representatives from hospitals, which operated schools of nursing. Under the terms of the legislative act, powers of the board were expanded, particularly in the areas of license regulation and school curriculum development and accreditation. In an act of 1955, the legislature gave the board the new designation of North Carolina Board of Nurse Registration and Nursing Education Enlarged.

The legislature of 1965 transferred all functions of the board to a body it named the North Carolina Board of Nursing. Similar in composition to its predecessor, the board’s membership was increased to twelve. Its three new members were to be licensed practice nurses. Their participation on the board, however, was limited to actions, which affected practice nursing. Terms of all members were increased to four years.

Under this legislation, known as the Nurse Practice Act, the board’s functions now included monitoring all courses, which prepared students for licensing examinations. It also empowered the board to employ an executive director and other personnel and agents deemed necessary to carry out provisions of the act. In 1973 legislation was passed permitting the board to work with the Board of Medical Examiners in establishing regulations for registered nurses performing certain medical procedures.

In an effort to reform state licensing and regulatory agencies, the General Assembly of 1977 created the Governmental Evaluation Commission, also known as the Sunset commission. In its review, the commission concluded that the Board of Nursing should continue, but with certain modifications. Several of its recommendations were implemented in a legislative act of 1981. Under that legislation, the governor was to appoint two lay members to represent the public at large. Terms of office were

**TIMELINE**

- **1928**
  - Office for Education Director established in Mt. Airy.

- **1929**
  - The first man, Ben Harrison, was licensed as a registered nurse in NC by endorsement from Pennsylvania.

- **1936**

- **1937**
  - State Board License Examination – handwritten by staff.

- **1940**
  - Office moved to McDowell Building, Raleigh.

- **1944**
  - Exam – Test Pool Series National League of Nursing Education.
changed to three years and limited to two consecutive terms. Immunity from criminal prosecution and civil liability was granted to those who in good faith reported any violation of the Nurse Practice Act. With the exception of those protected by the preceding provision, all in violation of this legislation could be charged with a misdemeanor. The legislation of 1981 made other significant changes in the board's composition and its appointment procedures. Position once held by physicians and hospital administrators were abolished as soon as incumbents had completed their terms of office. In addition to the two public members, the board would now consist of nine registered nurses and four licensed practical nurses. These were to be selected in a statewide election in which all registered nurses and licensed practical nurses could vote for representatives from their respective fields. Those elected were then commissioned by the governor. The General Assembly of 1983 provided for regulation of midwifery under the Midwifery Practice Act. It would be administered by a joint midwifery committee including the joint sub-committee of the Board of Nursing and Board of Medical Examiners, plus two practicing certified nurse-midwives and two physicians practicing in obstetrics. In 1989 the Board of Nursing was empowered to establish and maintain a Nurses Aides’ Registry, and in 1990 all legislation relevant to the board was consolidated and recodified as the Nursing Practice Act. The General Assembly of 1999 amended the Nursing Practice Act to include legislation that would protect the title “nurse”. This legislative states that no one may use the title nurse unless the person is currently licensed as a registered nurse or licensed practice nurse as provided by this Act.

The General Assembly of 1999 provided for implementation of the Nurse Licensure Compact, Article 9G of Chapter 90. This extends the “privilege to practice” nursing in North Carolina to nurses licensed in other states that have enacted this compact.

The General Assembly of 2001 provided for additional regulation in the Nursing Practice Act, which required criminal background checks of applicants for licensure.

During the General Assembly of 2003, there is pending legislative related to Board composition and tenure, mandatory employer verification of licensure status, and creation of a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse retired licensure status.
Act defined practice of RN and LPN. Combined Article 9 and 9A. Title: NC Board of Nursing. Governor appointed: Twelve (12) members: 5 RNs; 2 MDs; 2 Hospital Administrators of Hospitals operating nursing school; 3 LPNs — only participate when related to LPNs. Executive Director to be employed. Mandatory licensure for all nurses (RN and LPN). 

Renewal fee: $2.50/yr — renew for 2 yrs ($5.00).

Office located at 425 N. Boylan Ave., Raleigh (Park Building).

February 10, 1903 newspaper article reporting a battle over a bill providing for state regulations concerning trained nurses.

**TIMELINE**

- **1965**
  - Act defined practice of RN and LPN. Combined Article 9 and 9A. Title: NC Board of Nursing. Governor appointed: Twelve (12) members: 5 RNs; 2 MDs; 2 Hospital Administrators of Hospitals operating nursing school; 3 LPNs — only participate when related to LPNs. Executive Director to be employed. Mandatory licensure for all nurses (RN and LPN).
  - Renewal fee: $2.50/yr — renew for 2 yrs ($5.00).
  - Office located at 425 N. Boylan Ave., Raleigh (Park Building).

- **1975**
  - First state to permit RNs to prescribe (Nurse Practitioners).

- **1975**
  - Major revisions to NPA. All members address all issues. First Board to elect nurse members. Fifteen (15) members: 9 RNs; 4 LPNs; 2 appointed by the Governor.
  - Act listed powers including subcommittee with Medical Board for Nurse Practitioners. Temporary license implemented.

- **1981**
  - Office moved to Jones Street, Raleigh.

- **1983**
  - Nursing Practice Act — report as Pass/Fail.
  - Office moved to 3724 National Drive, Raleigh.

- **1986**
  - Office moved to corner of Hillsborough and Boylan Avenue, Raleigh.

- **1987**
  - NA Registry.

- **1989**
  - Exam: NCLEX — report as Pass/Fail.
  - Office moved to 3724 National Drive, Raleigh.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1903-2003</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1994</strong></td>
<td>Collaborative Practice Act passed: allows advanced practice RNs to form corporations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1995</strong></td>
<td>Plastic license. Website established.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1999</strong></td>
<td>July, Implementation of Nurse Licensure Compact.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2000</strong></td>
<td>On-line Renewals Mandatory Criminal Background Checks for initial licensure. Re-design of Bulletin/logo/website.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2001</strong></td>
<td>On-line Endorsement Applications Established the Foundation for Nursing Excellence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2002</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>