



# Illinois Department of Professional Regulation

Fernando E. Grillo  
Director

Rod R. Blagojevich  
Governor

Dear Nursing Professional:

Since my arrival at the Department six months ago, I have had the pleasure of meeting with most, if not all, of the leadership of professional associations and/or organizations representing over 750,000 licensees in 144 licensing categories. No other single profession has challenged me to understand the complexity of my job more than nursing. I accepted the challenge and look forward to continue working with your associations and/or organizations to better serve the needs of the nursing community.

During our meetings, discussions focused on many issues affecting the nursing profession:

- The Department's search for a Nursing Act Coordinator and Assistant Nursing Act Coordinator;
- The need for a nursing resource center;
- The licensing of bilingual and foreign-born nurses;
- The Nurse Licensure Compact (multi-state licensure);
- An impaired professional program; and
- Operational challenges in making sure the Department serves you efficiently in the renewal process.

Over the next three months, you and more than 150,000 of your nursing colleagues will renew your professional license. You will notice the renewal fee has increased from \$40 to \$60. This represents an increase of \$20 during the two year renewal cycle or \$10 per year. Please allow me to share some information about the increase.

The decision to increase fees was not made in a vacuum and was considered as a last option. The issue was discussed extensively during meetings with different nursing constituencies. Upon hearing the Department's commitment to the nursing profession, the organizations, including the Illinois Nurses Association, gave us their support in this endeavor.

This is the first nurse renewal fee increase since 1987. In comparison to licensing fees in our six neighboring states, the Illinois fee increase is still \$7.00 less per year than the average fee charged by surrounding states.

The nursing profession will not be the only occupation and/or profession affected by a fee increase. The Department is currently reviewing fee increases in other professions as well. The nursing profession is the first to see an increase because it is the next profession to renew in the Department's renewal cycle.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address this issue with you and for your cooperation during the renewal process. We look forward to serving your needs.

Sincerely,

Fernando E. Grillo  
Director

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