



Legislative
Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 20-1326

FINAL FISCAL NOTE

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--|------------------------|---|
| Drafting Number: | LLS 20-0333 | Date: | August 27, 2020 |
| Prime Sponsors: | Rep. Bird; Van Winkle Sen. Lee; Gardner | Bill Status: | Signed into Law |
| | | Fiscal Analyst: | Clare Pramuk 303-866-2677 clare.pramuk@state.co.us |

Bill Topic: **CREATE OCCUPATIONAL CREDENTIAL PORTABILITY PROGRAM**

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Summary of Fiscal Impact: | <input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue | <input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer | <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity |

This bill creates the Occupational Credential Portability Program in the Division of Professions and Occupations in the Department of Regulatory Agencies to centralize the credentialing of individuals licensed in another state. It also modifies the existing occupational credential exemption for military spouses. It will increase state workload in FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22.

**Appropriation
Summary:** No appropriation is required.

**Fiscal Note
Status:** The fiscal note reflects the enacted bill.

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, people duly credentialed in another state can be credentialed in Colorado for most professions and occupations administered by the Division of Professions and Occupations (DPO) in the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), if they meet certain qualifications. These qualifications are included within the statute for each profession and occupation subject to the bill and allow for licensure, certification, registration, or enrollment by endorsement, reciprocity, or transfer. This bill removes the endorsement, reciprocity, or transfer language from each act and centralizes it in the newly created Occupational Credential Portability Program (program). The professions and occupations that will be included in the program are as follows:

- acupuncturists;
- architects;
- athletic trainers;
- audiologists;
- barbers and cosmetologists;
- certified public accountants
- chiropractors
- dentists and dental hygienists;
- hearing aid providers;
- landscape architects;
- massage therapists;

- medical doctors;
- naturopaths;
- nurses including, advanced practice nurses, practical nurses and nurse's aides;
- nursing home administrators;
- occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants;
- optometrists;
- pharmacists;
- physical Therapists and Physical Therapy Assistants;
- podiatrists;
- professional land surveyors and land surveyor-interns;
- professional engineers and engineer-interns;
- psychiatric technicians;
- psychologists, social workers, marriage and family therapists, professional and addiction counselors;
- respiratory therapists;
- speech language pathologists; and
- veterinarians.

The bill also modifies the existing occupational credential exemption for military spouses. Beginning January 1, 2021, a military spouse duly credentialed in good standing in another state or United States territory to practice a particular profession or occupation is, upon application to the DPO entitled to the issuance of a temporary credential at no cost. The temporary credential is valid for three years and may not be renewed.

State Expenditures

The bill will increase workload in the DPO to centralize credentialing for out-of-state applicants seeking certification, registration, and licensure. Regulators within the DPO will conduct rulemaking to establish the Occupational Credential Portability Program that reduces barriers for applicants and then implement the changes. This rulemaking workload can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect June 25, 2020. Sections 4 and 5 take effect January 1, 2021.

State and Local Government Contacts

Information Technology

Law

Regulatory Agencies