

Summary of Legislation

2024



Professions & Occupations

During the 2024 legislative session, the Colorado General Assembly considered several measures concerning professions and occupations including bills to ensure access to testing accommodations, increase certain course and clinical work for massage therapists, and create an interstate compact for licensed cosmetologists. The General Assembly also passed several laws under the sunrise and sunset review process.

[House Bill 24-1004](#) establishes a uniform process for considering criminal records in occupations registration, certification, and licensure application in the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA). Under the bill, a conviction for a crime does not automatically disqualify applicants unless that crime relates directly to a particular profession. An applicant can only be denied if they are determined to be unable to perform the job without a risk to public safety. Individuals with a criminal record may, prior to applying, petition the department to determine if their criminal record would disqualify them.

[House Bill 24-1342](#) requires private, state, and local government testing entities to grant requests for testing accommodation on a licensing exam if a person has a disability, provides proof of having received an accommodation previously, provides a recommendation letter, and requests the previous accommodation. A testing entity that does not honor the request may be subject to a civil lawsuit.

Under [House Bill 24-1111](#), cosmetologists in Colorado can apply to receive a license to practice in states that operate under the

Cosmetology Licensure Compact. The bill establishes an interstate commission to adopt and enforce rules, manage administration of the compact, and facilitate the exchange of information between member states. To be eligible for a multistate license, cosmetologists must meet any requirements established by DORA and the compact.

Under current law, individuals applying for a massage therapist license must complete 500 hours of coursework and clinical work from an approved massage school. [Senate Bill 24-201](#) increased this requirement to 650 hours beginning July 1, 2024.

Sunrise and Sunset Reviews

Each year via sunset reviews the General Assembly considers the need for the regulation of professions to ensure that regulations in place continue to serve the public interest.

In 2024, the General Assembly passed several bills that continue certain regulations and that expand the authority of DORA in regulating mortuary and cremation professionals.

[House Bill 24-1328](#) continues the regulation of money transmitters by DORA until September 1, 2030. Money transmitters are financial companies, that are not banks, that transfer funds electronically that consumers can use to pay bills, buy products online, or send money to other companies. Among other changes, the bill:

- allows the banking board to suspend a license and issue cease and desist orders;

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- increases penalties for failure to allow a records examination and failure to provide certain reports to DORA; and
- allows the state banking commissioner to submit criminal records checks directly to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The Division of Banking within DORA oversees the regulation of 51 state banks and nine state trust companies. [House Bill 24-1351](#) extends this regulation until September 1, 2033. Among other changes, the bill:

- increases penalties for failure to report certain information and for violating any state law or regulation;
- allows the division to share information about state banks and trust companies' compliance with certain federal laws with federal agencies; and
- eliminates the requirements that the commissioner of banking mail certain reports.

[House Bill 24-1344](#) continues the State Plumbing Board until September 1, 2032. The bill makes several changes to the program including changing board appointment requirements, modifying the scope of practice regarding water conditioning systems, updating grounds for discipline, and extending the period between license renewal from two years to three years.

[House Bill 24-1329](#) continues the regulation of architects, professional engineers, and professional land surveyors in DORA until September 1, 2033. Among other changes, the bill:

- adds failure to respond to the State Board of Architects, Professional Engineers, and Professional Land Surveyors regarding complaints as a grounds for discipline; and
- allow noncitizens and nonresidents to be board members.



Regulating Funeral Establishments and Crematories

The General Assembly passed two bills in the 2024 session to further regulate funeral establishments and crematories. First, [House Bill 24-1335](#) continues the regulation of portions of the Mortuary Science Code in DORA relating to registration of funeral establishments and crematories and title protection for certain mortuary science professionals until September 1, 2029. The bill makes changes to the program including:

- requiring inspection of funeral homes and crematories on a routine basis, including after businesses have ceased operations;
- allowing inspections to occur outside of business hours;
- expanding DORA's rulemaking authority; and
- authorizing suspension of registration for those who do not comply with DORA's requirements.

Relatedly, [Senate Bill 24-173](#) requires that, beginning January 1, 2026, mortuary science professionals including funeral directors, mortuary science practitioners, embalmers, cremationists, and natural reductionists hold a valid state license. The bill establishes requirements for licensure, including background checks, and education requirements, including continuing education. Current practitioners in good standing may obtain a provisional license if they meet certain criteria. The bill also requires that registered funeral establishments and crematories are operated by licensed professionals who are subject to disciplinary action for mismanagement or other malfeasance.