



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 26-1431: COMPETENCY FOR OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE PORTABILITY

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Bacon; Soper
Sen. Gonzales J.; Jodeh

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Published for: House Business Affairs & Labor**Drafting number:** LLS 26-0327**Version:** Initial Fiscal Note**Date:** May 5, 2026**Fiscal note status:** The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill modifies the Occupational Credential Portability Program.**Types of impacts.** The bill is projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis:

- State Revenue
- State Expenditures

Appropriations. No appropriation is required.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$0	\$0
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, the Division of Professions and Occupations in the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) administers the Occupational Credential Portability Program to allow applicants credentialed in other states or through the federal government to work in Colorado if they have equivalent credentials as determined by statute or DORA.

The bill extends the program to applicants credentialed in other countries and grants DORA additional authority in determining credential equivalency.

Background

The [Occupational Credential Portability Program](#) allows credentials for the following professions and occupations to transfer to Colorado:

- acupuncturists;
- architects;
- athletic trainers;
- audiologists;
- barbers and cosmetologists;
- certified public accountants
- chiropractors;
- dentists, dental hygienists, and dental therapists;
- 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; and
- speech language.

State Revenue and Expenditures

The bill increases state revenue and expenditures in DORA and the Department of Public Safety (CDPS) by an indeterminate amount beginning in FY 2026-27.

To the extent that additional internationally trained practitioners obtain licensure, registration, certification, or endorsement under the bill, revenue will increase from application, renewal, fingerprint-based background checks, and other regulatory fees. Fee revenue is expected to offset corresponding regulatory costs associated with credential review, licensing administration, investigations, complaints, enforcement activity, disciplinary actions and legal services.

Expenditures will also increase in the CDPS to conduct additional fingerprint-based criminal history record checks for applicants subject to these requirements. The number of additional applicants who may seek licensure under the bill is unknown and will depend on implementation by individual boards and programs, future rulemaking, and applicant participation. Therefore, any revenue or expenditures collected by, and incurred in, DORA and the CDPS will be addressed through the annual budget process.

Workload will also increase in DORA to update board and program rules and application materials to reflect the changes in the bill and to process any additional applications. This workload increase can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed. It applies to applications for certification, registration, or licensure by endorsement filed on or after this date.

State and Local Government Contacts

Public Health and Environment

Regulatory Agencies