

SENATE FILE NO. SF0018

Universal occupational licensure.

Sponsored by: Joint Corporations, Elections & Political
Subdivisions Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to professions and occupations; amending
2 professional licensing requirements for military spouses;
3 providing for the issuance of professional and occupational
4 licenses to qualified applicants from other states;
5 requiring rulemaking; and providing for effective dates.

6

7 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

8

9 **Section 1.** W.S. 33-1-120 is created to read:

10

11 **33-1-120. Professional and occupational licensure for**
12 **qualified individuals licensed in other jurisdictions.**

13

14 (a) As used in this section:

15

1 (i) "Active" means a status of occupational or
2 professional licensure which has not been suspended,
3 revoked or terminated and which is not otherwise inactive;

4

5 (ii) "Applicant" means a natural person seeking
6 licensure from a professional or occupational licensing
7 board of this state;

8

9 (iii) "Good standing" means a status of
10 occupational or professional licensure which is in
11 compliance with all requirements imposed by the issuing
12 licensing, certification or registration authority;

13

14 (iv) "License" means any license, certificate or
15 registration required to practice an occupation or
16 profession.

17

18 (b) A professional or occupational licensing board
19 shall issue a license to an applicant to allow the
20 applicant to lawfully practice a profession or occupation
21 requiring licensure in this state if the Wyoming licensing
22 board determines that the applicant:

23

1 (i) Holds a relevant, active occupational or
2 professional license in good standing from another state
3 that mandates substantially equivalent or more stringent
4 educational, training, examination and experience
5 requirements for licensure than the licensing entity in
6 this state. Substantial equivalency shall be determined
7 pursuant to rules adopted by the licensing board in Wyoming
8 provided that:

9

10 (A) The educational equivalency shall be
11 determined by whether the degree required is a doctorate,
12 master, bachelor, associate or other degree;

13

14 (B) If the Wyoming licensing board requires
15 an examination for licensure, the substantially equivalent
16 examination requirement may be met by passing the same or
17 an earlier version of the exam. The Wyoming licensing
18 board shall waive this requirement if the individual has
19 been licensed for more than ten (10) years;

20

21 (C) In evaluating any work experience
22 requirements the provisions of subsection (c) of this
23 section shall apply;

1

2 (D) In addition to any exam required under
3 subparagraph (B) of this paragraph the Wyoming licensing
4 board may require an examination relating to the specifics
5 of Wyoming law and regulations regardless of the length of
6 time the individual has been licensed.

7

8 (ii) Demonstrates competency in the occupation
9 or profession for which the applicant seeks licensure.
10 Competency shall be determined pursuant to rules that shall
11 be adopted for that purpose and may include consideration
12 of continuing education credits, recent work experience,
13 prior licensing examinations, disciplinary actions taken
14 against the applicant in other states and other appropriate
15 factors;

16

17 (iii) Has not engaged in any act that would
18 constitute grounds for refusal, suspension or revocation of
19 the occupational or professional license sought in this
20 state; and

21

22 (iv) Has completed all required application
23 procedures and paid any required fee.

1

2 (c) All relevant work experience of an applicant,
3 including full-time or part-time experience, regardless of
4 whether in a paid or volunteer capacity, may be credited in
5 any work experience requirement adopted by an occupational
6 or professional licensing board.

7

8 (d) This section shall apply to all applications for
9 licensure under W.S. 21-2-802 or under title 33 of the
10 Wyoming statutes except for the following:

11

12 (i) An application to be an attorney at law
13 under chapter 5 of title 33;

14

15 (ii) An application to any board which
16 represents a profession with prescriptive drug authority,
17 but only with respect to the profession with the
18 prescriptive drug authority.

19

20 (e) Nothing in this section shall be held to limit
21 the rights or privileges of a military service member under
22 W.S. 33-1-116.

23

1 **Section 2.** W.S. 33-1-117(b)(intro), (i), (e) and by
2 creating a new subsection (g) is amended to read:

3

4 **33-1-117. Temporary permits for military spouses.**

5

6 (b) A professional or occupational licensing board
7 shall issue ~~a~~ an expedited license to a military spouse to
8 allow the military spouse to lawfully practice a profession
9 or occupation requiring licensure in this state if the
10 military spouse:

11

12 (i) Holds a relevant, active occupational or
13 professional license in good standing from another state;
14 ~~which state mandates substantially equivalent or more~~
15 ~~stringent educational, training, examination and experience~~
16 ~~requirements for licensure. Substantial equivalency shall~~
17 ~~be determined pursuant to rules which shall be adopted by~~
18 ~~the licensing board from which the military spouse~~
19 ~~applicant seeks licensure;~~

20

21 (e) Pursuant to rules which may be adopted for this
22 purpose, a professional or occupational licensing board may
23 issue a temporary practice permit to a military spouse

1 applicant who meets the requirements of paragraph (b)(i) of
2 this section and who has applied for a professional or
3 occupational license under this section. The military
4 spouse applicant may practice under the temporary permit
5 for a period not to exceed ~~one hundred twenty (120) days~~
6 three (3) years provided the military spouse is making
7 progress toward satisfying the unmet licensure
8 requirements, or until the professional or occupational
9 license for which they have applied has been either granted
10 or denied, whichever first occurs. A board shall not charge
11 a military spouse any fees for a temporary permit under
12 this subsection.

13

14 (g) On each licensure application or renewal form, a
15 professional or occupational licensing board shall inquire
16 and maintain a record of whether an applicant is a member
17 of the military or military spouse. If an applicant
18 self-identifies as and provides the board with satisfactory
19 proof that the applicant is a military spouse, the board
20 shall immediately commence the process of issuing a license
21 or temporary permit.

22

1 **Section 3.** Professional and occupational licensing
2 boards shall adopt rules necessary to implement this act.

3

4 **Section 4.**

5

6 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this
7 section, this act is effective July 1, 2021.

8

9 (b) Sections 3 and 4 of this act are effective
10 immediately upon completion of all acts necessary for a
11 bill to become law as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of
12 the Wyoming Constitution.

13

14

(END)