

By: Middleton

S.B. No. 2531

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to occupational licensing reciprocity agreements.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Title 2, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Chapter 61 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 61. OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING RECIPROCITY AGREEMENTS

Sec. 61.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Licensing authority" means a department, commission, board, office, or other agency of this state that issues or renews an occupational license.

(2) "Occupational license" means a license, permit, registration, certificate, or other form of authorization that must be obtained by an individual to engage in a business, occupation, or profession.

Sec. 61.002. GOAL FOR OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING RECIPROCITY AGREEMENTS. Each licensing authority shall:

(1) maximize occupational licensing reciprocity agreements to the extent allowed by law; and

(2) identify state laws that prevent the licensing authority from entering into a reciprocity agreement with a licensing authority in another state.

Sec. 61.003. RULES. A licensing authority shall adopt rules necessary to implement this chapter. The rules must establish procedures for the licensing authority to:

1 (1) determine whether the licensing requirements of
2 another state are substantially equivalent to the requirements of
3 this state, taking into consideration:

4 (A) the level of required training and testing to
5 obtain a license, including methods used to evaluate work
6 experience to fulfill training or testing requirements;

7 (B) the scope of practice for which the license
8 is issued; and

9 (C) the procedures used in the other state to
10 resolve complaints and to determine whether a license holder is in
11 good standing; and

12 (2) enter into and implement reciprocity agreements
13 with licensing authorities in other states that have occupational
14 licensing requirements substantially equivalent to this state's
15 requirements.

16 Sec. 61.004. REPORT. Not later than December 1 of each
17 odd-numbered year, each licensing authority shall submit to the
18 governor and the Legislative Budget Board a written report that:

19 (1) summarizes the licensing authority's efforts under
20 Section 61.002, including a description of the extent to which this
21 state's licensing requirements exceed the requirements of other
22 states;

23 (2) describes the licensing authority's efforts to
24 enter into reciprocity agreements with licensing authorities in
25 other states, including a list of:

26 (A) each reciprocity agreement entered into; and

27 (B) any unsuccessful effort to enter into a

1 reciprocity agreement with a licensing authority of another state;
2 and

3 (3) recommends any legislative action that is
4 necessary or appropriate to increase the number of occupational
5 license reciprocity agreements as directed by this chapter,
6 including any reduction of this state's licensing requirements that
7 would make more reciprocity agreements possible.

8 SECTION 2. Not later than January 1, 2026, each licensing
9 authority shall adopt the rules required by Section 61.003,
10 Occupations Code, as added by this Act.

11 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding Section 61.004, Occupations
12 Code, as added by this Act, a licensing authority shall submit the
13 initial report required by that section not later than December 1,
14 2027.

15 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.