

Dear Senate Committee on Government Operations,

I am writing in support of H.606, An act relating to professional licensure and immigration status.

Please ask the Committee Assistant to add this to the record.

To address occupational shortages across the country, some states have passed legislation to modify the requirements for licensure of immigrants. Their goal is to facilitate licensing of foreign-trained professionals and/or improve accessibility of the licensing process through easily navigated channels.

According to the American Association of Community Colleges, about 65 percent of occupations in the U.S. will require a postsecondary degree by 2025. However, the number of high school graduates entering college will not be able to fill the workforce needs. One population that can help address this shortage are immigrants.

<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED602362.pdf>

Like H.606, the laws below state that immigrant status is not a criteria for licensing and/or that other identifiers beside Social Security numbers can be used.

## 1. New Jersey

In 2020, S2455 was signed into law.

[S2455 \(njleg.gov\)](https://www.njleg.gov/S2455)

This bill simply states that “Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, rule, or regulation, lawful presence in the United States shall not be required to obtain a professional or occupational license, provided that the applicant meets all other requirements for licensure.”

The New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs houses 51 professional and occupational boards and committees that license over 700,000 individuals.

<https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/News/Brochures/ImmigrantLicense2022.pdf>

The bill impacted the roughly 500,000 undocumented residents in New Jersey, who were then eligible for professional licenses such as nursing, counseling and cosmetology.

## 2. Illinois

In 2018, SB3109 became law.

<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?GA=100&DocTypeID=SB&DocNum=3109&GAID=14&SessionID=91&LegID=110694>

In addition to providing that no applicant shall be denied a license solely based on his or her immigration status or citizenship status, the bill also allows an applicant to provide his or her individual taxpayer identification number as an alternative to providing a social security number when applying for a license.

### 3. Colorado

In 2021, Colorado enacted SB21-077

[Remove Lawful Presence Verification Credentialing | Colorado General Assembly](#)

This act specifies that lawful presence is not required of any applicant for any state or local license, certificate, or registration.

### 5. New Mexico

In 2021, New Mexico enacted SB0219.

[Legislation - New Mexico Legislature \(nmlegis.gov\)](#)

This is a longer bill with the title “No citizenship proof for occupational license.”

### 6. Nevada

In 2019, Nevada enacted AB275.

[AB275 Text \(state.nv.us\)](#)

This is a 124-page bill with the title “AN ACT relating to licensing; prohibiting a regulatory body from denying licensure of an applicant based on his or her immigration or citizenship status; authorizing an applicant for a professional or occupational license who does not have a social security number to provide an individual taxpayer identification number; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.”

### 7. Oregon

In 2019, Oregon enacted SB854:

[SB854 2019 Regular Session - Oregon Legislative Information System \(oregonlegislature.gov\)](#)

This bill directs professional licensing boards, in certain circumstances, to accept individual taxpayer identification number or other federally-issued identification number in lieu of Social Security number on applications for issuance or renewal of authorization to practice occupation or profession

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As these other state legislatures have done, please vote to advance H.606 so the skills and talents of immigrants residing in Vermont can be used to benefit all of us.

Thank you.

Ann Schroeder  
Dummerston