
This act summary is provided for the convenience of the public and members of the General Assembly. It is intended to provide a general summary of the act and may not be exhaustive. It has been prepared by the staff of the Office of Legislative Counsel without input from members of the General Assembly. It is not intended to aid in the interpretation of legislation or to serve as a source of legislative intent.

Act No. 152 (S.233). Professions and occupations; Office of Professional Regulation; well drillers; Standards Board for Professional Educators; Board of Medical Practice; Electricians' Licensing Board; Plumbers' Examining Board

An act relating to uniform licensing standards

This act applies to the professions and occupations regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation, the Department of Environmental Conservation (for well drillers), the Standards Board for Professional Educators, the Board of Medical Practice, the Electricians' Licensing Board, and the Plumbers' Examining Board. With several exceptions, the act creates uniform standards for these professional regulatory entities' licensure processes in regard to the following areas and in a manner that is tailored to each entity's professional regulatory structure:

- *Military credentials; fees.* Allowing these entities to evaluate specific military credentials to determine equivalency to the credentials required for Vermont licensure, and requiring them waive application fees to qualified military members and spouses.
- *Criminal backgrounds; second chance determination request.* Requiring these entities to provide a pre-application determination regarding whether an applicant's criminal background would disqualify the applicant from licensure in the profession(s) for which the applicant may thereafter seek licensure. An applicant would pay a \$25 fee for a second chance determination request, and this fee would be deducted from the license application fee if the applicant does thereafter seek licensure.
- *Sunset review.* Requiring each entity's professions to conduct a sunset review at least once every five years regarding the profession's continuing education or other continuing competency requirements in order to determine whether any of those requirements should be reduced or otherwise modified.
- *Endorsement from other states.* Requiring each entity to have an endorsement process that requires not more than three years of practice in good standing in another U.S. jurisdiction, regardless of whether that jurisdiction has licensing requirements substantially similar to those of this State. The act allows exemptions to this requirement if three years of practice in another jurisdiction is not adequately protective of the public and conversely allows for waivers from a profession's practice requirement.

- *Foreign credential verification.* Requiring each entity to have a process to assess the equivalence of an applicant's professional credentials earned outside the U.S. as compared to the requirements for Vermont licensure.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on September 23, 2020