

H.427

An act relating to a uniform process for foreign credential verification in the Office of Professional Regulation

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. chapter 5, subchapter 3 is amended to read:

Subchapter 3. Professional Regulation

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§ 137. UNIFORM PROCESS FOR FOREIGN CREDENTIAL

VERIFICATION

(a) The Director shall adopt rules that prescribe a process for the Director to assess the equivalence of an applicant's professional credentials earned outside the United States as compared to State licensing requirements for those professions attached to the Office that do not have laws addressing the verification and recognition of such credentials.

(b) Any determination of equivalence by the Director under this section shall be recorded in the applicant's licensing file and shall be binding upon the relevant State board or regulatory program.

(c) In administering this section, the Director may rely upon third-party credential verification services. The cost of such services shall be paid by the applicant.

(d) The provisions relating to preliminary license denials set forth in subsection 129(e) of this subchapter shall apply to a license application that is preliminarily denied for nonequivalence under this section.

Sec. 2. TRANSITIONAL PROVISION; RULE ADOPTION

The Director of the Office of Professional Regulation shall adopt rules in accordance with Sec. 1 of this act so that those rules are finally adopted on or before July 1, 2020, unless that deadline is extended by the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 843(c).

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.