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H.427

Introduced by Representatives Colston of Winooski, Christie of Hartford, Cina
of Burlington, Cordes of Lincoln, Gonzalez of Winooski,
Killacky of South Burlington, and Redmond of Essex

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Professions and occupations; Secretary of State, Office of
Professional Regulation; migrant professionals

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the
Director of the Office of Professional Regulation to adopt rules that will
provide a uniform process for the Office to assess a license applicant's
professional credentials earned outside the United States in order to determine
how those credentials compare to the requirements for licensure in professions
attached to the office that do not otherwise address the verification and
recognition of such credentials.

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

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

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

3 Subchapter 3. Professional Regulation

4 * * *

5 § 137. UNIFORM PROCESS FOR FOREIGN CREDENTIAL

6 VERIFICATION

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

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

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

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

1 Sec. 2. TRANSITIONAL PROVISION; RULE ADOPTION

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

6 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

7 This act shall take effect on passage.