

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Government Operations to which was referred Senate
3 Bill No. 233 entitled “An act relating to uniform licensing standards”
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
5 House propose to the Senate that the bill be amended by striking out all after
6 the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 * * * Office of Professional Regulation * * *

8 Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. § 123 is amended to read:

9 § 123. DUTIES OF OFFICE

10 * * *

11 ~~(g)~~(1) The Office of ~~Professional Regulation~~ shall establish uniform
12 procedures applicable to all of the professions and boards set forth in section
13 122 of this chapter, providing for:

14 ~~(1)~~(A) appropriate recognition of education, training, or service
15 completed by a member of the U.S. Armed Forces toward the requirements of
16 professional licensure; and

17 ~~(2)~~(B) expedited issuance of a professional license to a person who is
18 licensed in good standing in another regulatory jurisdiction; and:

19 ~~(A)~~(i) whose spouse is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces and who
20 has been subject to a military transfer to Vermont; and

1 of rehabilitation, and identification of the profession or professions for which
2 the individual seeks licensure.

3 (2) The individual shall submit this request online, accompanied by the
4 fee for pre-application determinations set forth in section 125 of this
5 subchapter. If the individual thereafter applies for licensure, this pre-
6 application fee shall be deducted from that license application fee.

7 (3) The Office shall:

8 (A) process a request within 30 days of receiving a complete request;

9 (B) assess the nature of the underlying conviction or convictions, the
10 nexus to the profession or professions for which the individual seeks licensure,
11 and the provided evidence of rehabilitation; and

12 (C) respond to the individual's request in writing.

13 (1) When, by reason of disqualification, resignation, vacancy, or necessary
14 absence, a board is unable to form a quorum or assign one or more members to
15 assist in the investigation and prosecution of complaints or license
16 applications, or to adjudicate a contested case, the Secretary of State may
17 appoint ad hoc members, either as voting members to establish a quorum at a
18 specific meeting or as nonvoting members to assist Office investigators and
19 prosecutors.

1 Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 125 is amended to read:

2 § 125. FEES

3 (a) In addition to the fees otherwise authorized by law, a board or advisor
4 profession may charge the following fees:

5 * * *

6 (5) A pre-application criminal background determination, \$25.00.

7 * * *

8 (d) Pursuant to qualifications and procedures determined by the Director,
9 the Office shall, upon request, waive application fees to qualified military
10 members and military spouses.

11 Sec. 3. 3 V.S.A. § 136 is amended to read:

12 § 136. UNIFORM CONTINUING EDUCATION EVALUATION; SUNSET
13 REVIEW

14 (a) If continuing education is required by law or rule, the Office shall apply
15 uniform standards and processes that apply to all professions regulated by the
16 Office for the assessment and approval or rejection of continuing education
17 offerings, informed by profession-specific policies developed in consultation
18 with relevant boards and advisor appointees.

1 (b)(1) Not less than once every five years, each profession attached to the
2 Office shall review its continuing education or other continuing competency
3 requirements. The review results shall be in writing and address the following:

4 (A) the renewal requirements of the profession;

5 (B) the renewal requirements in other jurisdictions, particularly in the
6 Northeast region;

7 (C) the cost of the renewal requirements for the profession's
8 licensees;

9 (D) an analysis of the utility and effectiveness of the renewal
10 requirements with respect to public protection; and

11 (E) recommendations to the Director on whether the continuing
12 education or other continuing competency requirements should be modified.

13 (2) The Director shall respond to the profession within 45 days of its
14 submitted review results. The Director may require a profession to reduce,
15 modify, or otherwise change the renewal requirements, including by proposing
16 any necessary amendments to statute or rule.

1 Sec. 4. 3 V.S.A. § 136a is added to read:

2 § 136a. UNIFORM PROCESS FOR ENDORSEMENT FROM OTHER
3 STATES

4 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, all professions
5 attached to the Office shall have an endorsement process that requires not more
6 than three years of practice in good standing in another jurisdiction within the
7 United States, regardless of whether that jurisdiction has licensing
8 requirements substantially similar to those of this State.

9 (b) Any profession determining that three years of demonstrated practice in
10 another jurisdiction is not adequately protective of the public shall provide its
11 rationale to the Director, who may propose any necessary statutory or rule
12 amendments in order to implement more restrictive requirements for
13 endorsement.

14 (c) The Director may issue to an endorsement applicant a waiver of the
15 profession's practice requirement if there is a showing that the waiver follows
16 State policy and the public is adequately protected.

1 background. This determination shall not be binding on the Department in a
2 future application if the individual violates probation or parole or is convicted
3 of another crime following the determination.

4 (1) The Department shall initiate this determination upon an individual’s
5 “second chance” determination request. This request shall provide
6 documentation related to the individual’s conviction or convictions and
7 evidence of rehabilitation.

8 (2) The individual shall submit this request online, accompanied by a
9 pre-application fee of \$25.00. If the individual thereafter applies for licensure,
10 this pre-application fee shall be deducted from that license application fee.

11 (3) The Department shall:

12 (A) process a request within 30 days of receiving a complete request;

13 (B) assess the nature of the underlying conviction or convictions, the
14 nexus to the well-drilling profession, and the provided evidence of
15 rehabilitation; and

16 (C) respond to the individual’s request in writing.

17 (c) Continuing education; sunset review.

18 (1) Not less than once every five years, the Department shall review its
19 continuing education or other continuing competency requirements for well
20 drillers. The review results shall be in writing and address the following:

1 (A) the renewal requirements of the profession;

2 (B) the renewal requirements in other jurisdictions, particularly in the
3 Northeast region;

4 (C) the cost of the renewal requirements for the profession’s
5 licensees;

6 (D) an analysis of the utility and effectiveness of the renewal
7 requirements with respect to public protection; and

8 (E) recommendations to the Secretary on whether the continuing
9 education or other continuing competency requirements should be modified.

10 (2) The Secretary shall respond to the Department within 45 days of its
11 submitted review results. The Secretary may require the Department to reduce,
12 modify, or otherwise change the renewal requirements, including by proposing
13 any necessary amendments to statute or rule.

14 (d) Military credentials. The Department may evaluate specific military
15 credentials to determine equivalency to credentials for well drillers. The
16 determinations shall be adopted through written policy that shall be posted on
17 the Department’s website.

18 (e) Uniform process for endorsement from other states.

19 (1) The Department shall issue licenses for well drillers who have been
20 licensed in good standing in another jurisdiction within the United States for at

1 least three years, regardless of whether that jurisdiction has licensing
2 requirements substantially similar to those of this State.

3 (2) If the Department determines that three years of demonstrated
4 practice in another specific jurisdiction is not adequately protective of the
5 public, it shall provide its rationale to the Secretary, who may propose any
6 necessary statutory or rule amendments in order to implement more restrictive
7 requirements for endorsement for that jurisdiction.

8 (3) The Secretary may issue to an endorsement applicant a waiver of the
9 practice requirement if there is a showing that the waiver follows State policy
10 and the public is adequately protected.

11 (f) Uniform process for foreign credential verification.

12 (1) The Secretary shall adopt rules in consultation with the Department
13 that prescribe a process for the Secretary to assess the equivalence of an
14 applicant's professional credentials earned outside the United States as
15 compared to State licensing requirements for well drillers.

16 (2) Any determination of equivalence by the Secretary under this section
17 shall be in consultation with the Department, recorded in the applicant's
18 licensing file, and binding upon the Department.

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

4 (g) Rules.

5 (1) The Department may adopt rules to implement the provisions of this
6 subchapter and to establish well construction standards for persons engaged in
7 the business of well construction.

8 ~~(e)~~(2)(A) Rules relating to licensing standards shall be fair and reasonable
9 and shall be designed and implemented to ensure that all applicants are granted
10 licensure if they demonstrate that they possess the minimal occupational
11 qualifications necessary for the purposes of groundwater protection. They
12 shall not be designed or implemented for the purpose of limiting the number of
13 licensees.

14 (B) All other rules to implement the provisions of this subchapter
15 shall be rationally related to the purposes of this chapter, and shall be designed
16 to achieve a reasonable balance between the expected governmental, societal,
17 and occupational costs and the expected benefits.

1 Sec. 6. 10 V.S.A. § 1395 is amended to read:

2 § 1395. APPLICATION

3 (a) Any person who intends to engage in the business of drilling wells in
4 the State of Vermont shall file an application with the Department of
5 Environmental Conservation for a license to do so on forms provided by the
6 Department on which the person's qualifications and other information that
7 may be required by the Department shall be stated.

8 (b)(1) The fee for a license or a renewal shall be in accordance with 3
9 V.S.A. § 2822.

10 (2) Pursuant to qualifications and procedures determined by the
11 Secretary, the Department shall, upon request, waive application fees to
12 qualified military members and military spouses.

13 (c) The licenses so issued shall expire every three years on June 30, shall
14 not be transferable, and may be renewed on filing of a complete application
15 and payment of the required fee in accordance with 3 V.S.A. § 2822. The fee
16 shall be paid on an annual basis.

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(3)(A) Establish standards, including endorsements, according to which individuals may obtain a license or have one renewed or reinstated.

(B) Adopt rules for an application process to provide licensure to applicants who can demonstrate three years or more of licensed practice in good standing in another jurisdiction within the United States, regardless of whether that jurisdiction has licensing requirements substantially similar to those of this State. The Standards Board may, by rule, exclude an endorsement from the process required by this subdivision (B) if it finds that licensure through this process for the endorsement does not fulfill the goals set forth in section 1691 of this chapter.

(4) Oversee and monitor the application and licensing process administered by the office. The Standards Board may, by adoption of a written policy that is posted on the Agency’s website, allow specific military credentials to satisfy one or more requirements for licensure.

* * *

Sec. 8. 16 V.S.A. § 1695a is added to read:

§ 1695a. PRE-APPLICATION CRIMINAL BACKGROUND

DETERMINATION; UNIFORM PROCESS FOR FOREIGN

CREDENTIAL VERIFICATION

1 (a) Pre-application criminal background determination. An individual may
2 request a pre-application determination of the individual’s criminal
3 background. The pre-application determination shall adhere to the process set
4 forth in section 254 of this title. Results of a pre-application determination
5 shall not be binding on the Secretary in a future application.

6 (1) The individual’s request for a pre-application determination shall
7 include documentation related to criminal conviction or substantiation,
8 evidence of rehabilitation or mitigation, and identification of which license and
9 any endorsement the individual will seek.

10 (2) The individual shall submit this request on a form provided by the
11 Secretary, accompanied by the pre-application criminal background
12 determination fee set forth in section 1697 of this chapter. If the individual
13 thereafter applies for licensure, this pre-application fee shall be deducted from
14 that license application fee.

15 (3) The Secretary shall:

16 (A) process a request within 30 days of receiving a complete request;

17 (B) assess the nature of any underlying convictions and
18 substantiations, the nexus to the license and endorsement sought, and the
19 provided evidence of rehabilitation or mitigation; and

1 (C) respond to the individual’s request in writing, stating whether the
2 individual may seek licensure.

3 (b) Uniform process for foreign credential verification.

4 (1) The Standards Board shall adopt rules in consultation with the
5 Secretary that prescribe a process for the Secretary to assess the equivalence of
6 an applicant’s professional credentials earned outside the United States as
7 compared to State licensing requirements for professional educators.

8 (2) Any determination of equivalence by the Secretary under this
9 subsection (b) shall be in consultation with the Standards Board, recorded in
10 the applicant’s licensing file, and binding upon the Secretary.

11 (3) In administering this subsection, the Secretary may rely upon third-
12 party credential verification services. The cost of such services shall be paid
13 by the applicant.

14 (4) The provisions relating to preliminary license denials set forth in
15 subsection 1704(a) of this chapter shall apply to a license application that is
16 preliminarily denied for nonequivalence under this subsection.

1 technical as well as operational issues of the electrical utility industry, and one
2 person associated with the fire insurance industry.

3 (2) ~~No~~ Not more than two appointed members' terms shall expire in the
4 same year.

5 ~~(e)~~(3) The Governor shall appoint one of the members of the Board to
6 serve as its chair.

7 (c) Continuing education; sunset review.

8 (1) Not less than once every five years, the Board shall review
9 electricians' continuing education or other continuing competency
10 requirements. The review results shall be in writing and address the following:

11 (A) the renewal requirements for electricians;

12 (B) the renewal requirements in other jurisdictions, particularly in the
13 Northeast region;

14 (C) the cost of the renewal requirements for electricians;

15 (D) an analysis of the utility and effectiveness of the renewal
16 requirements with respect to public protection; and

17 (E) recommendations to the Commissioner on whether the continuing
18 education or other continuing competency requirements should be modified.

19 (2) The Commissioner shall respond to the Board within 45 days of its
20 submitted review results. The Commissioner may require the Board to reduce,

1 modify, or otherwise change the renewal requirements, including by proposing
2 any necessary amendments to statute or rule.

3 Sec. 12. 26 V.S.A. § 905 is amended to read:

4 § 905. APPLICATION; EXAMINATIONS AND FEES

5 * * *

6 (g) Pursuant to qualifications and procedures determined by the
7 Commissioner, the Board shall, upon request, waive application fees for
8 qualified military members and military spouses.

9 Sec. 13. 26 V.S.A. § 906 is amended to read:

10 § 906. EXAMINATIONS NOT REQUIRED

11 (a) Generally. A license for an individual who is licensed by another state
12 or who has received designation by the U.S. Armed Forces as a 12R
13 ~~Electrician~~ electrician or equivalent shall be issued without examination as
14 provided pursuant to this section on payment of the required fee.

15 (b)(1) Reciprocity. A master's or journeyman's license, as the case may
16 be, shall be issued to a person to whom a master electrician's license or a
17 journeyman electrician's license has been previously issued by another state,
18 whose standards are equivalent to those of this State, if under the laws or
19 regulations of the state issuing the license a similar privilege is granted to
20 electricians licensed under the laws of this State.

1 (2) Uniform process for endorsement from other states.

2 (A) The Board shall issue a license to master and journeyman
3 electricians who have been licensed in good standing in another jurisdiction
4 within the United States for at least three years, regardless of whether that
5 jurisdiction meets the reciprocity requirements of subdivision (1) of this
6 subsection.

7 (B) If the Board determines that three years of demonstrated practice
8 in another specific jurisdiction is not adequately protective of the public, it
9 shall provide its rationale to the Commissioner, who may propose any
10 necessary statutory or rule amendments in order to implement more restrictive
11 requirements for endorsement for that jurisdiction.

12 (C) The Commissioner may issue to an endorsement applicant a
13 waiver of the practice requirement if there is a showing that the waiver follows
14 State policy and the public is adequately protected.

15 (c) Except as otherwise provided by law, a journeyman’s license shall be
16 issued to a service member or veteran who:

17 (1) submits a complete application and any documentation required by
18 the Board;

19 (2) has received designation by the U.S. Armed Forces as a 12R
20 ~~Electrician~~ electrician or equivalent; and

1 shall be adopted through written policy that shall be posted on the Board’s
2 website.

3 (c)(1) The Commissioner shall adopt rules in consultation with the Board
4 that prescribe a process for the Commissioner to assess the equivalence of an
5 applicant’s professional credentials earned outside the United States as
6 compared to State licensing requirements for electricians.

7 (2) Any determination of equivalence by the Commissioner under this
8 subsection shall be in consultation with the Board, recorded in the applicant’s
9 licensing file, and binding upon the Board.

10 (3) In administering this section, the Board may rely upon third-party
11 credential verification services. The cost of such services shall be paid by the
12 applicant.

13 * * * Board of Medical Practice * * *

14 Sec. 15. 26 V.S.A. § 1353 is amended to read:

15 § 1353. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD

16 The Board shall have the following powers and duties to:

17 * * *

18 (11) Provide a pre-application determination of an individual’s criminal
19 background. This determination shall not be binding on the Board in a future

1 application if the individual violates probation or parole or is convicted of
2 another crime following the determination.

3 (A) The Board shall initiate this determination upon an individual’s
4 “second chance” determination request. This request shall provide
5 documentation related to the individual’s conviction or convictions, evidence
6 of rehabilitation, and identification of the profession or professions for which
7 the individual seeks licensure.

8 (B) The individual shall submit this request online, accompanied by
9 the fee for pre-application determinations set forth in section 1401a of this
10 chapter. If the individual thereafter applies for licensure, this pre-application
11 fee shall be deducted from that license application fee.

12 (C) The Board shall:

13 (i) process a request within 30 days of receiving a complete
14 request;

15 (ii) assess the nature of the underlying conviction or convictions,
16 the nexus to the profession or professions for which the individual seeks
17 licensure, and the provided evidence of rehabilitation; and

18 (iii) respond to the individual’s request in writing.

19 (12)(A) Establish uniform procedures applicable to all of the professions
20 under its jurisdiction, providing for:

1 (i) appropriate recognition of education, training, or service
2 completed by a member of the U.S. Armed Forces toward the requirements of
3 professional licensure;

4 (ii) expedited issuance of a professional license to a person who is
5 licensed in good standing in another regulatory jurisdiction:

6 (I) whose spouse is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces and
7 who has been subject to a military transfer to Vermont; and

8 (II) who left employment to accompany his or her spouse to
9 Vermont.

10 (B) The Board may evaluate specific military credentials to
11 determine equivalency to credentials within the Board’s jurisdiction. The
12 determinations shall be adopted through written policy that shall be posted on
13 the Board’s website.

14 (13)(A) Adopt rules that prescribe a process for the Board to assess the
15 equivalence of an applicant’s professional credentials earned outside the
16 United States as compared to State licensing requirements for those
17 professions within the Board’s jurisdiction.

18 (B) Any determination of equivalence by the Board under this
19 subdivision (13) shall be recorded in the applicant’s licensing file.

1 (C) In administering this section, the Board may rely upon third-party
2 credential verification services. The cost of such services shall be paid by the
3 applicant.

4 (14)(A) Not less than once every five years, review the continuing
5 education and other continuing competency requirements for each of the
6 professions it regulates. The review results shall be in writing and address the
7 following:

8 (i) the renewal requirements of the profession;

9 (ii) the renewal requirements in other jurisdictions, particularly in
10 the Northeast region;

11 (iii) the cost of the renewal requirements for the profession's
12 licensees;

13 (iv) an analysis of the utility and effectiveness of the renewal
14 requirements with respect to public protection; and

15 (v) recommendations to the Commissioner of Health on whether
16 the continuing education or other continuing competency requirements should
17 be modified.

18 (B) The Commissioner of Health shall respond to the Board within
19 45 days of its submitted review results. The Commissioner may require the

1 Board to reduce, modify, or otherwise change the renewal requirements,
2 including by proposing any necessary amendments to statute or rule.

3 Sec. 16. 26 V.S.A. § 372 is amended to read:

4 § 372. LICENSURE WITHOUT EXAMINATION

5 (a) A person who is licensed under the laws of another jurisdiction and who
6 desires licensure as a podiatrist without examination shall apply to the Board in
7 writing on a form furnished by it and pay the specified fee. The Board shall
8 license ~~such persons~~ that person if it deems that ~~they have~~ person has met
9 requirements in the other jurisdiction that are substantially equal to those of
10 this State. The Board may ~~make~~ adopt such rules as are reasonable and
11 necessary for the protection of the public to ~~assure~~ ensure that applicants under
12 this section are professionally qualified.

13 (b)(1) The Board shall have an endorsement process for podiatrist licensure
14 that requires not more than three years of practice in good standing in another
15 jurisdiction within the United States, regardless of whether that jurisdiction has
16 licensing requirements substantially equal to those of this State, so long as the
17 applicant meets one of the following postgraduate training requirements:

18 (A) A graduate of a U.S. or Canadian podiatric school accredited by a
19 body that is acceptable to the Board shall have successfully completed at least

1 two years of postgraduate training in a U.S. or Canadian program accredited by
2 an organization that is acceptable to the Board; or

3 (B) A graduate of a Board-approved podiatric school outside the
4 United States or Canada shall have successfully completed at least three years
5 of postgraduate training in a U.S. or Canadian program accredited by an
6 organization that is acceptable to the Board.

7 (2) If the Board determines that three years of demonstrated practice in
8 another specific jurisdiction is not adequately protective of the public, it shall
9 provide its rationale to the Commissioner, who may propose any necessary
10 statutory or rule amendments in order to implement more restrictive
11 requirements for endorsement for that jurisdiction.

12 (3) The Board may issue to an endorsement applicant a waiver of the
13 practice requirement if there is a showing that the waiver follows State policy
14 and the public is adequately protected.

15 Sec. 17. 26 V.S.A. § 1395 is amended to read:

16 § 1395. LICENSE WITHOUT EXAMINATION BY ENDORSEMENT

17 (a) ~~Without examination, the Board may, upon payment of the required fee,~~
18 ~~issue a license to a reputable physician who personally appears and presents a~~
19 ~~certified copy of a certificate of registration or a license issued to him or her in~~
20 ~~a jurisdiction whose requirements for registration are deemed by the Board as~~

1 equivalent to those of this State, providing that such jurisdiction grants the
2 same reciprocity to a Vermont physician or by the National Board of Medical
3 Examiners. The Board shall have an endorsement process for physician
4 licensure that requires not more than three years of practice in good standing in
5 another jurisdiction within the United States, regardless of whether that
6 jurisdiction has licensing requirements substantially equal to those of this
7 State, provided the applicant meets one of the following postgraduate training
8 requirements:

9 (1) A graduate of a U.S. or Canadian medical school accredited by a
10 body that is acceptable to the Board shall have successfully completed at least
11 two years of postgraduate training in a U.S. or Canadian program accredited by
12 an organization that is acceptable to the Board.

13 (2) A graduate of a Board-approved medical school outside the United
14 States or Canada shall have successfully completed at least three years of
15 postgraduate training in a U.S. or Canadian program accredited by an
16 organization that is acceptable to the Board.

17 (b) ~~Without examination, the Board may issue a license to a reputable~~
18 ~~physician who is a resident of a foreign country and who shall furnish the~~
19 ~~Board with satisfactory proof that he or she has been appointed to the faculty~~
20 ~~of a medical college accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical~~

1 ~~Education (LCME) and located within the State of Vermont. An applicant for a~~
2 ~~license under this subsection shall furnish the Board with satisfactory proof~~
3 ~~that he or she has attained the age of majority, is of good moral character, is~~
4 ~~licensed to practice medicine in his or her country of residence, and that he or~~
5 ~~she has been appointed to the faculty of an LCME accredited medical college~~
6 ~~located within the State of Vermont. The information submitted to the Board~~
7 ~~concerning the applicant's faculty appointment shall include detailed~~
8 ~~information concerning the nature and term of the appointment and the method~~
9 ~~by which the performance of the applicant will be monitored and evaluated. A~~
10 ~~license issued under this subsection shall be for a period no longer than the~~
11 ~~term of the applicant's faculty appointment and may, in the discretion of the~~
12 ~~Board, be for a shorter period. A license issued under this subsection shall~~
13 ~~expire automatically upon termination for any reason of the licensee's faculty~~
14 ~~appointment. If the Board determines that three years of demonstrated practice~~
15 ~~in another specific jurisdiction is not adequately protective of the public, it~~
16 ~~shall provide its rationale to the Commissioner, who may propose any~~
17 ~~necessary statutory or rule amendments in order to implement more restrictive~~
18 ~~requirements for endorsement for that jurisdiction.~~

1 (f) Continuing education; sunset review.

2 (1) Not less than once every five years, the Board shall review
3 plumbers' continuing education or other continuing competency requirements.

4 The review results shall be in writing and address the following:

5 (A) the renewal requirements of the profession;

6 (B) the renewal requirements in other jurisdictions, particularly in the
7 Northeast region;

8 (C) the cost of the renewal requirements for the profession's
9 licensees;

10 (D) an analysis of the utility and effectiveness of the renewal
11 requirements with respect to public protection; and

12 (E) recommendations to the Commissioner on whether the continuing
13 education or other continuing competency requirements should be modified.

14 (2) The Commissioner shall respond to the Board within 45 days of its
15 submitted review results. The Commissioner may require the Board to reduce,
16 modify, or otherwise change the renewal requirements, including by proposing
17 any necessary amendments to statute or rule.

1 Sec. 21. 26 V.S.A. § 2193 is amended to read:

2 § 2193. APPLICATIONS AND EXAMINATIONS; FEES

3 * * *

4 (e) Pursuant to qualifications and procedures determined by the
5 Commissioner, the Board shall, upon request, waive application fees to
6 qualified military members and military spouses.

7 Sec. 22. 26 V.S.A. § 2194 is amended to read:

8 § 2194. EXAMINATIONS NOT REQUIRED; TEMPORARY LICENSES

9 (a) Generally.

10 (1) Reciprocity.

11 (A) Appropriate licenses without examination may be issued to a
12 person to whom a master plumber's license or a journeyman plumber's license
13 or a specialty license or equivalent has been previously issued by another state
14 or municipality upon the payment of the required fee if:

15 ~~(A)(i)~~ that state or municipality maintained a standard of
16 requirements equivalent to those of this State; and

17 ~~(B)(ii)~~ the applicant presents satisfactory proof to the Board that he
18 or she is a bona fide licensee.

19 ~~(2)(B)~~ An applicant under this ~~subsection~~ subdivision (1) shall be
20 exempt from examination only if the applicant holds a license from a foreign

1 state or municipality and if under the laws or regulations of the foreign state or
2 municipality issuing the license a like exemption or reciprocal agreement, or
3 both, is granted to licensees under the laws of this State.

4 (2) Uniform process for endorsement from other states.

5 (A) The Board shall issue licenses for master plumbers and
6 journeyman plumbers and specialists who have been licensed in good standing
7 in another jurisdiction within the United States for at least three years,
8 regardless of whether that jurisdiction meets the reciprocity requirements of
9 subdivision (1) of this subsection.

10 (B) If the Board determines that three years of demonstrated practice
11 in another specific jurisdiction is not adequately protective of the public, it
12 shall provide its rationale to the Commissioner, who may propose any
13 necessary statutory or rule amendments in order to implement more restrictive
14 requirements for endorsement for that jurisdiction.

15 (C) The Commissioner may issue to an endorsement applicant a
16 waiver of the practice requirement if there is a showing that the waiver follows
17 State policy and the public is adequately protected.

18 (b) Service members and veterans. Except as otherwise provided by law, a
19 journeyman's license shall be issued without examination and upon payment
20 of the required fee to an applicant who is a service member or veteran who:

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(c) Definitions. As used in this section:

* * *

* * * Rules * * *

Sec. 23. ADOPTION OF REQUIRED RULES

An agency required to adopt rules under this act shall finally adopt those rules on or before July 1, 2021, unless that deadline is extended by the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 843(c).

* * * Effective Date * * *

Sec. 24. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

(Committee vote: _____)

Representative _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE