

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            ~~(B)~~(ii) who left employment to accompany his or her spouse to  
2 Vermont.

3            (2) The Director may evaluate specific military credentials to determine  
4 equivalency to credentials required for professions attached to the Office. The  
5 determinations shall be adopted through written policy that shall be posted on  
6 the Office’s website.

7            \* \* \*

8            (j)(1) The Office may inquire into the criminal background histories of  
9 applicants for licensure and for biennial license renewal for the following  
10 professions:

11            \* \* \*

12            (k) For any profession attached to it, the Office shall provide a pre-  
13 application determination of an individual’s criminal background. This  
14 determination shall not be binding on the Office in a future application if the  
15 individual violates probation or parole or is convicted of another crime  
16 following the determination.

17            (1) The Office shall initiate this determination upon an individual’s  
18 “second chance” determination request. This request shall provide  
19 documentation related to the individual’s conviction or convictions, evidence

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.

\* \* \* Well Drillers \* \* \*

Sec. 5. 10 V.S.A. § 1395a is amended to read:

§ 1395a. LICENSES; RULES

(a) Licenses. The Department shall issue licenses under this subchapter. A licensee may be authorized to perform more than one class of activities under a single license. The Department shall, by rule, establish appropriate application, testing, and renewal procedures for each class of activity under a license. The rule shall include the opportunity for an applicant to take the licensing test orally or by demonstration if the applicant fails the written test.

The classes of activities under a license shall be as follows:

(1) Water well driller. This class shall consist of any person engaged in the business of constructing wells for the purpose of locating, extracting, or recharging groundwater, or for the purpose of transferring heat to or from the earth’s subsurface.

(2) Monitoring well driller. This class shall consist of any person engaged in the business of constructing, servicing, or closing wells drilled for the purpose of monitoring groundwater quantity or quality.

\* \* \*

(b) Criminal background; pre-application determination. The Department shall provide a pre-application determination of an individual’s criminal

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.

1                                   \* \* \* Professional Educators \* \* \*

2           Sec. 7. 16 V.S.A. § 1694 is amended to read:

3           § 1694. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE STANDARDS BOARD FOR  
4                                   PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS

5           In addition to any other powers and duties prescribed by law or incidental or  
6           necessary to the exercise of such lawful powers and duties, the Standards  
7           Board shall:

8                       (1)(A) Adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25 with respect to the  
9           licensing of teachers and administrators, and of speech-language pathologists  
10          and audiologists as provided in 26 V.S.A. chapter 87.

11                       (B) Not less than once every five years, review its continuing  
12          education or other continuing competency requirements for professional  
13          educators. The review results shall be in writing and address the following:

14                           (i) the renewal requirements for licensure and endorsements;

15                           (ii) the renewal requirements in other jurisdictions, particularly in  
16          the Northeast region;

17                           (iii) the cost of the renewal requirements for the licensees; and

18                           (iv) an analysis of the utility and effectiveness of the renewal  
19          requirements with respect to the purpose set forth in section 1691 of this  
20          chapter.

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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           (b) Pursuant to qualifications and procedures determined by the Secretary,  
2           the Agency shall, upon request, waive application fees to qualified military  
3           members and military spouses.

4           (c) Fees collected under this section shall be credited to special funds  
5           established and managed pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7, subchapter 5, and  
6           shall be available to the Agency to offset the costs of providing those services.

7                               \* \* \* Electricians \* \* \*

8           Sec. 11. 26 V.S.A. § 901 is amended to read:

9           § 901. ELECTRICIANS' LICENSING BOARD; MEMBERSHIP; POWERS

10           (a) Creation. A board for the licensing of electricians is created, to be  
11           known as the “Electricians’ Licensing Board.”

12           (b) Membership. The ~~board~~ Board consists of the Commissioner of Public  
13           Safety or a member of that Department designated by the Commissioner and  
14           four persons appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the  
15           Senate.

16           (1) The four appointed members shall serve for terms of three years,  
17           beginning on July 1 in the year of appointment, and they shall include one  
18           licensed master electrician, one licensed journeyman electrician, one person  
19           associated with the public electrical utility industry who is knowledgeable in

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 (3) has completed a minimum of 8,000 hours and four years of active  
2 duty field work as a 12R ~~Electrician~~ electrician or equivalent.

3 \* \* \*

4 Sec. 14. 26 V.S.A. § 907 is amended to read:

5 § 907. RECOGNITION OF EXPERIENCE

6 (a) The Board, in determining the qualifications of an applicant for a  
7 license, may in its discretion give recognition:

8 (1) in the case of an application for a master’s license, to the applicant’s  
9 experience as a licensed journeyman in another state;

10 (2) in the case of an application for a journeyman’s license, to an  
11 apprenticeship served in another state; or

12 (3) to experience or prior qualifications.

13 (b)(1) The Board, in determining the qualifications of a service member or  
14 veteran, as defined pursuant to section 906 of this subchapter, who is applying  
15 for a master’s license, shall give recognition to the applicant’s:

16 ~~(1)(A)~~ experience as a 12R electrician or equivalent in the U.S. Armed  
17 Forces; and

18 ~~(2)(B)~~ other experience or prior qualifications.

19 (2) The Board may evaluate specific military credentials to determine  
20 equivalency to credentials within the Board’s jurisdiction. The determinations

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 (1) complete an approved U.S. practical nursing education program  
2 meeting requirements set by the Board by rule or completion of equivalent  
3 study in a program conducted by the U.S. Armed Forces satisfactory to the  
4 Director; and

5 (2) complete examinations as determined by the Board.

6 \* \* \* Plumbers \* \* \*

7 Sec. 20. 26 V.S.A. § 2181 is amended to read:

8 § 2181. PLUMBER’S EXAMINING BOARD; MEMBERSHIP; POWERS

9 (a) Creation. ~~A~~ The Plumber’s Examining Board, within the Department  
10 of Public Safety, ~~hereinafter called “Board,”~~ shall consist of five members, one  
11 of whom shall be the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee and one of  
12 whom shall represent the Commissioner of Health or designee. The remaining  
13 three members shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent  
14 of the Senate. One of the appointive members shall be a master plumber, one  
15 shall be a journey plumber, and one shall be a public member not associated  
16 with the plumbing or heating trades.

17 (b) General authority. The Board shall have authority to examine and  
18 license master plumbers and journeyman plumbers and specialists and shall  
19 have the right to make reasonable rules.



1       (c) Disciplinary actions. Upon notice to the affected person and after a  
2 hearing, the Board may refuse to issue a license or may suspend or revoke a  
3 license or may take other disciplinary action against a licensee for any of the  
4 following reasons:

5   \* \* \*

6       (d) Military credentials. The Board may evaluate specific military  
7 credentials to determine equivalency to credentials within its jurisdiction. The  
8 determinations shall be adopted through written policy that shall be posted on  
9 the Board’s website.

10       (e) Foreign credential verification.

11           (1) The Commissioner shall adopt rules in consultation with the Board  
12 that prescribe a process for the Commissioner to assess the equivalence of an  
13 applicant’s professional credentials earned outside the United States as  
14 compared to State licensing requirements for plumbers.

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

18           (3) In administering this subsection, the Board may rely upon third-party  
19 credential verification services. The cost of such services shall be paid by the  
20 applicant.

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:

1 \* \* \*  
2 (c) Definitions. As used in this section:

3 \* \* \*

4 \* \* \* Electricians and Plumbers; Criminal Backgrounds \* \* \*

5 Sec. 23. ELECTRICIAN AND PLUMBER LICENSING BOARDS;  
6 RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING LICENSEE CRIMINAL  
7 BACKGROUNDS

8 On or before January 15, 2021, the Electricians' Licensing Board and the  
9 Plumbers' Examining Board shall each report to the House Committees on  
10 Government Operations and on General, Housing, and Military Affairs and to  
11 the Senate Committees on Government Operations and on Economic  
12 Development, Housing and General Affairs any recommendations regarding  
13 whether the law regulating their respective professions should be amended to:

14 (1) provide that criminal convictions constitute unprofessional conduct  
15 and therefore grounds on which the Board may deny initial licensure or license  
16 renewal or otherwise discipline a licensee and, if so, whether this authority  
17 should be limited to certain convictions; and

18 (2) require an applicant for initial licensure or license renewal, or both,  
19 to submit to a criminal background check as part of the application process.

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\* \* \* Rules \* \* \*

Sec. 24. 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 Dates \* \* \*

Sec. 25. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on April 1, 2021, except that this section and Sec. 23 (electrician and plumber licensing boards; recommendations regarding licensee criminal backgrounds) shall take effect on passage.

(Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Representative \_\_\_\_\_  
FOR THE COMMITTEE