



**State of Vermont**  
**Office of the Secretary of State**

**Office of Professional Regulation**  
89 Main Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Montpelier, VT 05620-3402  
www.sec.state.vt.us

**James C. Condos, Secretary of State**  
**Christopher D. Winters, Deputy Secretary**  
**S. Lauren Hibbert, Director**

MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Jeannette White, Chair, Senate Committee on Government Operations

From: S. Lauren Hibbert, Director, Office of Professional Regulation

Date: February 18, 2020

Re: S. 233, An act relating to uniform licensing standards

---

The Office of Professional Regulation (“OPR” or the “Office”) thanks you for the opportunity to testify before you on this matter.

At the last hearing on this bill, Senator Clarkson, asked for recommendations from OPR related to foreign trained professionals. Professional education and scopes of practice have wide variations internationally. Due to those variations, OPR recommends that the Senate Committee on Government Operations add language to S. 233 that mimics Act 10 (2019, previously H. 427). Act 10 applied only to the Office of Professional Regulation. Including the Act 10 language in S. 233, however, will allow each agency to carve out paths to licensure appropriate for people who were trained in international locations in those specific professions.

The language of H.427 is:

§ 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)