

1 State of Arkansas  
2 92nd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2019  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1255

5 By: Representative Dotson  
6 By: Senator Hester  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO PROMOTE, RECRUIT, AND RETAIN A HIGHLY  
10 SKILLED WORKFORCE IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS; TO AMEND  
11 THE LAW CONCERNING LICENSING, REGISTRATION, AND  
12 CERTIFICATION FOR CERTAIN PROFESSIONS; TO ESTABLISH A  
13 SYSTEM OF ENDORSEMENT, RECOGNITION, AND RECIPROCITY  
14 FOR LICENSING, REGISTRATION, AND CERTIFICATION FOR  
15 CERTAIN PROFESSIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

18 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING LICENSING,  
19 REGISTRATION, AND CERTIFICATION FOR  
20 CERTAIN PROFESSIONS; AND TO ESTABLISH A  
21 SYSTEM OF ENDORSEMENT, RECOGNITION, AND  
22 RECIPROCITY FOR LICENSING.  
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26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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28 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-1-107 is amended to read as follows:  
29 17-1-107. Reinstatement of licenses – Definition.

30 ~~(a)(1) It is not the intent of the General Assembly to cause the~~  
31 ~~licensing entity to engage in simple comparisons of the required hours of~~  
32 ~~training and other personal qualifications under Arkansas's occupational~~  
33 ~~licensing statutes with those qualifications required in the state where the~~  
34 ~~person is credentialed.~~

35 ~~(2) It is the intent of the General Assembly to ensure that a~~  
36 ~~person may be credentialed to work in Arkansas if he or she generally~~



~~demonstrates the skills and ethics required by state law based on the person's experience and credentials in another state.~~

~~(b)(a)~~ A licensing entity shall by rule adopt reduced requirements for reinstatement of a license, registration, or certification for a person who:

(1) Demonstrates that he or she:

(A) Was previously licensed, registered, or certified to practice in the field of his or her profession at any time in this state;

(B) Held his or her license in good standing at the time of licensing;

(C) Did not have his or her license revoked for:

(i) An act of bad faith; or

(ii) A violation of law, rule, or ethics;

(D) Is not holding a suspended or probationary license in any state; and

(E) Is sufficiently competent in his or her field; and

(2) Pays any reinstatement fee required by law.

~~(e)(b)~~ The licensing entity may require that sufficient competency in a particular field be demonstrated by:

(1) Proficiency testing;

(2) Letters of recommendation; or

(3) Both proficiency testing and letters of recommendation.

~~(d)(1)(c)(1)~~ Except as provided under subdivision ~~(e)(2)(b)~~ of this section, the licensing entity shall not require a person who meets the requirements of subsection (a) of this section to participate in the apprenticeship, education, or training required as a prerequisite to licensing, registration, or certification of a new professional in the field.

(2) The licensing entity may require the person to participate in continuing education or training if the continuing education or training is required for all professionals in the field to maintain the license, registration, or certification.

~~(e)(d)~~ A person shall not be required to comply with requirements under this section to obtain reinstatement of his or her license, registration, or certification if the person meets the requirements for reciprocity.

~~(f)(e)~~ If a criminal background check is required of an applicant for an original license, registration, or certification, or of a person currently

1 holding a license, registration, or certification, then the licensing entity  
2 may require a person seeking reinstatement under this section to meet the  
3 same criminal background check requirements as the applicant for an original  
4 license, registration, or certification, or as the person currently holding a  
5 license, registration, or certification.

6 ~~(g)(f)(1)~~ As used in this section, "licensing entity" means an agency,  
7 board, commission, department, committee, or other authority of the  
8 government of the State of Arkansas, whether within or subject to review by  
9 another agency, ~~except the General Assembly, the courts, and the Governor,~~  
10 that has the duty to license, register, certify, or otherwise approve a  
11 person to work in a particular field or industry.

12 (2) As used in subdivision (f)(1) of this section "agency"  
13 does not include the General Assembly, the courts, or the Governor.  
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15 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 1, Subchapter 1, is amended  
16 to add an additional section to read as follows:

17 17-1-108. Endorsement, recognition, and reciprocity of licenses,  
18 registrations, or certifications.

19 (a)(1) It is the intent of the General Assembly to ensure that a  
20 person may be credentialed to work in Arkansas if he or she generally  
21 demonstrates the skills and ethics required by state law based on the  
22 person's experience and credentials in another state.

23 (2) It is not the intent of the General Assembly to cause the  
24 licensing entity to engage in simple comparisons of the required hours of  
25 training and other personal qualifications under Arkansas's occupational  
26 licensing statutes with those qualifications required in the state where the  
27 person is credentialed.

28 (b)(1) As used in this section "licensing entity" means an agency,  
29 board, commission, department, committee, or other authority of the  
30 government of the State of Arkansas, whether within or subject to review by  
31 another agency, that has the duty to license, register, certify, or otherwise  
32 approve a person to work in a particular field or industry.

33 (2) As used in subdivision (g)(1) of this section "agency" does  
34 not include the General Assembly, the courts, or the Governor.

35 (c) A licensing entity shall by rule adopt the least restrictive  
36 requirements for licensing, registration, or certification for a person who:

1           (1) Demonstrates that he or she:

2                   (A) Was previously licensed, registered, or certified for  
3 a term specified by rule of the licensing entity to practice in the field of  
4 his or her profession in another state;

5                   (B) Holds his or her license in good standing;

6                   (C) Has not had his or her license revoked for:

7                           (i) An act of bad faith; or

8                           (ii) A violation of law, rule, or ethics;

9                   (D) Is not holding a suspended or probationary license in  
10 any state; and

11                   (E) Is sufficiently competent in his or her field; and

12           (2) Pays any licensing, registration, or certification fee  
13 required by law.

14           (d)(1)(A) A licensing entity shall comply with the requirements under  
15 subsection (b) of this section by adopting a rule that is least restrictive  
16 that allows for state-to-state reciprocity.

17                   (B) The rule under subdivision (d)(1)(A) of this section  
18 shall provide the procedure by which a licensing entity shall grant a one-  
19 year temporary reciprocal license or permit to a person under subsection (b)  
20 of this section by presenting evidence of current and active licensure,  
21 registration, or certification in another state.

22                   (2) If a state does not require licensing, registration, or  
23 certification for a profession that requires licensing, registration, or  
24 certification in this state, a licensing entity shall adopt a rule that is  
25 least restrictive to permit a person to obtain licensing, registration, or  
26 certification for that profession in this state.

27                   (3) The licensing entity may require additional state-specific  
28 education for persons certified or licensed in other states that do not offer  
29 reciprocity similar to reciprocity under this section to persons licensed or  
30 certified in this state.

31           (e)(1) Except as provided under subdivision (e)(2) of this section, a  
32 licensing entity shall not require a person who meets the requirements of  
33 subsection (b) of this section to participate in the apprenticeship,  
34 education, or training required as a prerequisite to licensing, registration,  
35 or certification of a new professional in the field.

36                   (2) The licensing entity may require the person to participate

1 in continuing education or training if the continuing education or training  
 2 is required for all professionals in the field to maintain the license,  
 3 registration, or certification.

4 (f) If a criminal background check is required of an applicant for an  
 5 original license, registration, or certification, or of a person currently  
 6 holding a license, registration, or certification, then the licensing entity  
 7 may require a person seeking reinstatement under this section to meet the  
 8 same criminal background check requirements as the applicant for an original  
 9 license, registration, or certification, or as the person currently holding a  
 10 license, registration, or certification.

11 (g) The licensing entity may require the person or entity applying for  
 12 licensure, registration, or certification under this section to meet any  
 13 bonding, financial statement, or insurance requirements that are applicable  
 14 to all applicants.

15 (h) This section shall not apply to:

16 (1) Reciprocity or endorsement provisions under §§ 17-12-308,  
 17 17-26-315, 17-27-308, 17-28-306, 17-31-308, 17-36-304, 17-43-307, 17-83-305,  
 18 17-88-305, 17-89-305, 17-90-302, 17-92-114, 17-92-308, 17-93-414, 17-97-306,  
 19 17-99-304, 17-100-304, and 17-103-302; or

20 (2) The licensing entities that administer the reciprocity or  
 21 endorsement provisions under subdivision (h)(1) of this section.

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