

Rule 2.2. Application form - The application form for a license, credential, or commission shall be issued by the Director and shall include:

- (a) The name, address, place and date of birth, and sex of the applicant;
- (b) The driver's license number and social security number of the applicant;
- (c) If the applicant was born outside of the United States, proof of eligibility to work in the United States, including, but not limited to a U.S. passport, born abroad certificate, Naturalization papers, permanent residency card, VISA/Green Card, I-9 form, I-766 form or "work permit", etc.
- ~~(e)~~(d) A statement as to which license(s), credential(s), or commission(s) the applicant is seeking; and
- ~~(d)~~(e) Questions related to the applicant's qualifications specified in A.C.A. § 17-39-202, § 17-39-206, § 17-39-304, § 17-40-306, § 17-40-337, or Rule 9.0, Rule 9.1, or Rule 10.4(c) below.

Rule 2.17. Expedited Process for Active-Duty Service Members, Returning Military

Veterans, and Spouses - The Division will expedite the licensure process for: ~~active-duty military service members stationed in Arkansas, returning military veterans applying for licensure within one (1) year of his or her discharge from active duty, and/or the spouse of a qualifying service member or veteran.~~

- (a) A uniformed service member stationed in the State of Arkansas;
- (b) A uniformed service veteran who resides in or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas;
- (c) The spouse of:
 - (i) A person listed in subdivision (a) or (b) of this Rule;

RECEIVED

JAN 13 2022

BUREAU OF
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH

- (ii) A uniformed service member who is assigned a tour of duty that excludes the uniformed service member's spouse from accompanying the uniformed service member and the spouse relocates to this state; and
- (iii) A uniformed service member who is killed or succumbs to his or her injuries or illness in the line of duty if the spouse establishes residency in the state.

To qualify for expedited licensure, the applicant must notate his or her status as requested on the application and provide the Division with a copy of the active duty orders or DD214.

Rule 2.18. Fee Waivers – the Division will waive the initial application fees prescribed by A.C.A. § 17-39-207, § 17-39-305, or § 17-40-302 if the applicant:

- (a) Is receiving assistance through the Arkansas Medicaid Program, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program, or the Lifeline Assistance Program;
- (b) Was approved for unemployment within the last twelve (12) months; or
- (c) Has an income that does not exceed two hundred percent (200%) of the federal poverty income guidelines.

Rule 9.0. Class “E” Unrestricted alarm system company - installs alarm systems, including those systems in structures that are required by the AFPC to have a fire alarm system. An applicant that is qualified for a Class “E” Unrestricted license is also qualified for a Class “E”

Restricted license. To be licensed as a Class “E” Unrestricted alarm system company, the applicant must meet the following qualifications:

(a) Manager certification requirements - the manager must have completed all of the courses from one of the following organizations:

(i) NICET

(1) Level III; or

(2) Level IV.

(ii) ESA

(1) Level I;

(2) Level IIA - Electronics or ABAT; and

(3) FAIM.

(iii) NESAS

(1) Electronics; and

(2) Fire Installation and wiring codes.

(iv) Elite Continuing Education University (CEU)

(1) Elite CEU Level I;

(2) Advanced Electronic Intrusion Technician (AEIT); and

(3) Fire Alarm Installation Techniques (FAIT).

(b) Alarm Technician or Alarm Agent requirements - the applicant must have completed one (1) of the following courses:

(i) NICET – Level II;

(ii) ESA - Level I;

(iii) NESAS – Level I; or

(iv) Elite CEU – Level I; or

(v) Complete Electrical Academy – Level I.

Rule 9.1. Class “E” Restricted alarm systems company – installs alarm systems in structures that are not required by the AFPC to have a fire alarm system. To be licensed as a Class “E” Restricted alarm system company, the applicant must meet the following qualifications:

(a) Manager certification requirements – the manager must have completed all of the courses from one of the following organizations:

(i) NICET – Level II;

(ii) ESA

(1) Level 2A Electronics or ABAT; and

(2) Level 2B fire systems installation standards or FAIM; or

(iii) NESA (1) Electronics; and (2) Fire Installation and Wiring Codes.

(iv) Elite Continuing Education University (CEU)

(1) Elite CEU Level I;

(2) Advanced Electronic Intrusion Technician (AEIT); and

(3) Fire Alarm Installation Techniques (FAIT).

(b) Alarm Technician or Alarm Agent requirements - the applicant must have completed one (1) of the following courses:

(i) NICET – Level II;

(ii) ESA – Level I;

(iii) NESA – Level I; or

(iv) Elite CEU – Level I; or

(v) Complete Electrical Academy – Level I.

Rule 9.4. Approved equivalents

(a). The Director has the authority to modify or expand the training requirements necessary to qualify for a license or credential under this section pursuant to A.C.A § 17-40-318.

(b). The Director or designee has the authority to administratively approve a company meeting the required criteria set out in Section 8 to provide training which meets the required standards under this section pursuant to A.C.A. § 17-40-318.

1 State of Arkansas As Engrossed: S1/19/21 S1/26/21

2 93rd General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2021

SENATE BILL 78

4

5 By: Senators Hill, D. Wallace, T. Garner, Irvin, J. Hendren, J. English, Flippo

6 By: Representatives Lynch, Cozart, Brown, Evans

7

8

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARKANSAS OCCUPATIONAL
10 LICENSING OF UNIFORMED SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS, AND
11 SPOUSES ACT OF 2021; TO MODIFY THE AUTOMATIC
12 OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR UNIFORMED
13 SERVICES MEMBERS, RETURNING UNIFORMED SERVICES
14 VETERANS, AND THEIR SPOUSES; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY;
15 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

16

17

18

Subtitle

19 TO ESTABLISH ARKANSAS OCCUPATIONAL
20 LICENSING OF UNIFORMED SERVICE MEMBERS,
21 VETERANS, AND SPOUSES ACT OF 2021; AND TO
22 DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

23

24

25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

26

27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-1-106 is repealed.

28 ~~17-1-106. Automatic licensure for active duty service members,~~
29 ~~returning military veterans, and spouses—Definitions.~~

30 ~~(a) As used in this section:~~

31 ~~(1) “Automatic licensure” means the granting of occupational~~
32 ~~licensure without an individual’s having met occupational licensure~~
33 ~~requirements provided under this title or by the rules of the occupational~~
34 ~~licensing entity;~~

35 ~~(2) “Occupational licensing entity” means an office, board,~~
36 ~~commission, department, council, bureau, or other agency of state government~~



1 ~~having authority to license, certify, register, permit, or otherwise~~
2 ~~authorize an individual to engage in a particular occupation or profession;~~

3 ~~(3) "Occupational licensure" means a license, certificate,~~
4 ~~registration, permit, or other form of authorization required by law or rule~~
5 ~~that is required for an individual to engage in a particular occupation or~~
6 ~~profession; and~~

7 ~~(4) "Returning military veteran" means a former member of the~~
8 ~~United States Armed Forces who was discharged from active duty under~~
9 ~~circumstances other than dishonorable.~~

10 ~~(b)(1) An occupational licensing entity shall grant automatic~~
11 ~~licensure to engage in an occupation or profession to an individual who is~~
12 ~~the holder in good standing of a substantially equivalent occupational~~
13 ~~license issued by another state, territory, or district of the United States~~
14 ~~and is:~~

15 ~~(A) An active duty military service member stationed in~~
16 ~~the State of Arkansas;~~

17 ~~(B) A returning military veteran applying for licensure~~
18 ~~within one (1) year of his or her discharge from active duty; or~~

19 ~~(C) The spouse of a person under subdivisions (b)(1)(A)~~
20 ~~and (b)(1)(B) of this section.~~

21 ~~(2) However, an occupational licensing entity shall be required~~
22 ~~to provide automatic licensure if the proposed rules are not approved as~~
23 ~~required under subdivision (d)(2) of this section.~~

24 ~~(c) An occupational licensing entity may submit proposed rules~~
25 ~~recommending an expedited process and procedure for occupational licensure~~
26 ~~instead of automatic licensure as provided under subsection (b) of this~~
27 ~~section to the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council.~~

28 ~~(d) The Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council~~
29 ~~shall:~~

30 ~~(1) Review the proposed rules of an occupational licensing~~
31 ~~entity as submitted for public comment and at least thirty (30) days before~~
32 ~~the public comment period ends under the Arkansas Administrative Procedure~~
33 ~~Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.; and~~

34 ~~(2) Approve the proposed rules submitted under subsection (c) of~~
35 ~~this section based on:~~

36 ~~(A) A determination of whether the expedited process and~~

1 ~~procedure provide the least restrictive means of accomplishing occupational~~
2 ~~licensure; and~~

3 ~~(B) Any other criteria the Administrative Rules~~
4 ~~Subcommittee of the Legislative Council determines necessary to achieve the~~
5 ~~objectives of this section.~~

6 ~~(e) The Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council~~
7 ~~may:~~

8 ~~(1) Establish a subcommittee to assist in the duties assigned~~
9 ~~under this section;~~

10 ~~(2) Assign information filed with the Administrative Rules~~
11 ~~Subcommittee of the Legislative Council under this section to one (1) or more~~
12 ~~subcommittees of the Legislative Council, including without limitation a~~
13 ~~subcommittee created under subdivision (e)(1) of this section; or~~

14 ~~(3) Delegate its duties under this section to one (1) or more~~
15 ~~subcommittees of the Legislative Council, subject to final review and~~
16 ~~approval of the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council.~~

17 ~~(f) An occupational licensing entity shall:~~

18 ~~(1) Submit proposed rules authorized under subsection (e) of~~
19 ~~this section to the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative~~
20 ~~Council for review and approval before the proposed rules are promulgated~~
21 ~~under the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.; and~~

22 ~~(2) Provide to the House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth,~~
23 ~~Legislative and Military Affairs an annual report stating the number of~~
24 ~~automatic licenses and expedited occupational licenses granted under this~~
25 ~~section to:~~

26 ~~(A) Active duty military service members stationed in the~~
27 ~~State of Arkansas;~~

28 ~~(B) Returning military veterans applying within one (1)~~
29 ~~year of their discharge from active duty; or~~

30 ~~(C) The spouse of a person under subdivisions (f)(2)(A)~~
31 ~~and (f)(2)(B) of this section.~~

32
33 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 1, is amended to add an
34 additional chapter to read as follows:

35 Chapter 4 – Arkansas Occupational Licensing of Uniformed Service Members,
36 Veterans, and Spouses Act of 2021

1
2 17-4-101. Title.

3 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas
4 Occupational Licensing of Uniformed Service Members, Veterans, and Spouses
5 Act of 2021".

6
7 17-4-102. Legislative findings and intent.

8 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

9 (1) Arkansas sets the bar as a national leader in addressing
10 employment barriers faced by uniformed service members, uniformed service
11 veterans, and their spouses in attaining occupational licensure;

12 (2) Arkansas is one (1) of only four (4) states to successfully
13 address eight (8) or more of the ten (10) issues affecting uniformed service
14 families identified by the United States Department of Defense;

15 (3) Of the United States Department of Defense's ten (10) issues
16 in fiscal year 2020, four (4) of the issues concern occupational licensure of
17 spouses of uniformed service members;

18 (4) Annually, fourteen and a half percent (14.5%) of spouses of
19 uniformed service members move across state lines as opposed to one and one-
20 tenth percent (1.1%) of civilians;

21 (5) States can continue to improve the attainment of
22 occupational licensure and to eliminate barriers impeding employment of
23 spouses of uniformed service members following a move across state lines;

24 (6) Acts 2019, No. 820, established provisions for the granting
25 of automatic occupational licensure or expedited occupational licensure to
26 active-duty service members, recently separated veterans, and their spouses
27 who hold occupational licensure in good standing in another jurisdiction; and

28 (7) Additional steps need to be taken to clarify, simplify, and
29 elevate the occupational licensure process for uniformed service members,
30 uniformed service veterans, and their spouses.

31 (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly to address occupational
32 licensure barriers that impede the launch and sustainability of civilian
33 occupational careers and employment faced by uniformed service members,
34 uniformed service veterans, and their spouses due to frequent uniformed
35 service assignment by:

36 (1) Providing:

1 (A) Automatic occupational licensure or expedited
2 occupational licensure to current license holders to expedite their entry
3 into the workforce of this state;

4 (B) Temporary or provisional licensure to initial
5 licensure candidates while expediting full licensure;

6 (C) Legislative oversight of rulemaking by occupational
7 licensing entities to ensure removal of occupational licensure barriers faced
8 by uniformed service members, uniformed service veterans, and their spouses;
9 and

10 (D) Guidance to assure effective rulemaking and clear
11 license application instructions to uniformed service members, uniformed
12 service veterans, and their spouses;

13 (2) Recognizing uniformed service education, training,
14 experience, and credentials of uniformed service members and uniformed
15 service veterans applying for initial occupational licensure; and

16 (3) Extending licensure expiration and any continuing education
17 required for occupational licensure renewal when a uniformed service member
18 is deployed.

19
20 17-4-103. Definitions.

21 As used in this chapter:

22 (1) "Automatic occupational licensure" means the granting of
23 occupational licensure without an individual's having met occupational
24 licensure requirements provided under this title or by the rules of the
25 relevant occupational licensing entity;

26 (2) "Occupational licensing entity" means an office, board,
27 commission, department, council, bureau, or other agency of state government
28 having authority to license, certify, register, permit, or otherwise
29 authorize an individual to engage in a particular occupation or profession,
30 not including occupations or professions within the judicial branch of
31 government or occupations or professions subject to the superintending
32 control of the Supreme Court;

33 (3) "Occupational licensure" means a license, certificate,
34 registration, permit, or other form of authorization required by law or rule
35 that is required for an individual to engage in a particular occupation or
36 profession;

1 (4) "Uniformed service member" means:

2 (A) An active or reserve component member of the United
3 States Air Force, United States Army, United States Coast Guard, United
4 States Marine Corps, United States Navy, United States Space Force, or
5 National Guard;

6 (B) An active component member of the National Oceanic and
7 Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps; or

8 (C) An active or reserve component member of the United
9 States Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service; and

10 (5) "Uniformed service veteran" means a former member of the
11 United States uniformed services discharged under conditions other than
12 dishonorable.

13
14 17-4-104. Applicability.

15 Unless otherwise stated in this chapter, this chapter applies to:

16 (1) A uniformed service member stationed in the State of
17 Arkansas;

18 (2) A uniformed service veteran who resides in or establishes
19 residency in the State of Arkansas; and

20 (3) The spouse of:

21 (A) A person listed in subdivision (1) or (2) of this
22 section;

23 (B) A uniformed service member who is assigned a tour of
24 duty that excludes the uniformed service member's spouse from accompanying
25 the uniformed service member and the spouse relocates to this state; and

26 (C) A uniformed service member who is killed or succumbs
27 to his or her injuries or illness in the line of duty if the spouse
28 establishes residency in the state.

29
30 17-4-105. Automatic occupational licensure.

31 An occupational licensing entity shall grant automatic occupational
32 licensure to engage in an occupation or profession to an individual who is:

33 (1) Listed in § 17-4-104; and

34 (2) The holder in good standing of occupational licensure with
35 similar scope of practice issued by another state, territory, or district of
36 the United States.

1
2 17-4-106. Expedited occupational licensure.

3 (a)(1) An occupational licensing entity may submit proposed rules
4 recommending an expedited process for the attainment of occupational
5 licensure instead of automatic occupational licensure as provided under § 17-
6 4-105 to the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council.

7 (2) The proposed rules described in subdivision (a)(1) of this
8 section shall include temporary or provisional occupational licensure
9 provisions with a term of ninety (90) days or more.

10 (3) The occupational licensing entity shall provide automatic
11 occupational licensure if the proposed expedited occupational licensure rules
12 are not approved as required by § 17-4-109.

13 (b)(1) An occupational licensing entity shall expedite the process for
14 initial occupational licensure for an individual who is listed in § 17-4-104.

15 (2) An occupational licensing entity shall provide the applicant
16 under subdivision (b)(1) of this section with a temporary or provisional
17 license upon receipt of required documentation or the successful completion
18 of any examination required by the relevant occupational licensing entity to
19 enable the applicant to secure employment in his or her occupation or
20 profession.

21
22 17-4-107. Acceptance of uniformed service education, training,
23 experience, or service-issued credential.

24 An occupational licensing entity shall accept relevant and applicable
25 uniformed service education, training, or service-issued credential toward
26 occupational licensure qualifications or requirements when considering an
27 application for initial licensure of an individual who is:

28 (1) A uniformed service member; or

29 (2) A uniformed service veteran who makes an application within
30 one (1) year of his or her discharge from uniformed service.

31
32 17-4-108. Extension of license expiration and continuing education
33 requirements.

34 (a) An occupational licensing entity shall extend the expiration date
35 of an occupational licensure for a deployed uniformed service member or his
36 or her spouse for one hundred eighty (180) days following the date of the

1 uniformed service member's return from deployment.

2 (b)(1) An occupational licensing entity shall allow a full or partial
3 exemption from a continuing education requirement that is required as a
4 component of occupational licensure for an individual who is listed in
5 subsection (a) of this section until one hundred eighty (180) days following
6 the date of the uniformed service member's return from deployment.

7 (2) An occupational licensing entity that allows full or partial
8 exemption from continuing education requirements may require evidence of
9 completion of continuing education before granting a subsequent occupational
10 licensure or authorizing the renewal of an occupational licensure.

11
12 17-4-109. Legislative oversight of rules.

13 (a) The Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council
14 shall:

15 (1) Review the proposed rules of an occupational licensing
16 entity as submitted for public comment at least thirty (30) days before the
17 public comment period ends under the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act, §
18 25-15-201 et seq.; and

19 (2) Approve the proposed rules submitted under § 17-4-106 based
20 on:

21 (A) A determination of whether the expedited process
22 provides the least restrictive means of attaining occupational licensure; and

23 (B) Any other criteria the Administrative Rules
24 Subcommittee of the Legislative Council determines necessary to achieve the
25 objectives of this section.

26 (b) The Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council
27 may:

28 (1) Establish a further subcommittee to assist in the duties
29 assigned to the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council
30 under this section;

31 (2) Assign information filed with the Administrative Rules
32 Subcommittee of the Legislative Council under this section to one (1) or more
33 subcommittees of the Legislative Council, including without limitation a
34 subcommittee created under subdivision (b)(1) of this section; or

35 (3) Delegate the duties of the Administrative Rules Subcommittee
36 of the Legislative Council under this section to one (1) or more

1 subcommittees of the Legislative Council, which shall be subject to the final
2 review and approval of the Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the
3 Legislative Council.

4
5 17-4-110. Responsibilities of occupational licensing entities.

6 An occupational licensing entity shall:

7 (1) Submit proposed rules authorized under § 17-4-106 to the
8 Administrative Rules Subcommittee of the Legislative Council for review and
9 approval before the proposed rules are promulgated under the Arkansas
10 Administrative Procedure Act, § 25-15-201 et seq.;

11 (2) If the proposed rules are not approved as required under §
12 17-4-109, provide automatic occupational licensure to an individual listed in
13 § 17-4-104;

14 (3) Post prominently on the occupational licensing entity's
15 website a link entitled "Military Member Licensure" that directly leads to
16 information applicable to an individual listed in § 17-4-104; and

17 (4) Provide to the House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth,
18 Legislative and Military Affairs an annual report stating the number of
19 individuals granted automatic occupational licensure and expedited
20 occupational licensure under this chapter.

21
22 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
23 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that current laws and
24 administrative rules regarding the issuance of occupational licenses,
25 certificates, and permits are barriers and create a hardship for uniformed
26 service members, uniformed service veterans, and their spouses; that
27 additional expedited processes, automatic licensure, and extended expiration
28 dates of occupational licenses, certificates, and permits is needed to ensure
29 that uniformed service members, uniformed service veterans, and their spouses
30 may practice their chosen occupation or profession in the State of Arkansas;
31 and that this act is immediately necessary to remove barriers and hardships
32 in obtaining occupational licenses, certificates, and permits for uniformed
33 service members, uniformed service veterans, and their spouses. Therefore, an
34 emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for
35 the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become
36 effective on:

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

/s/Hill

APPROVED: 2/23/21

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

As Engrossed: S3/10/21

A Bill

SENATE BILL 153

5 By: Senators Gilmore, *B. Ballinger, Beckham, Bledsoe, B. Davis, Flipppo, T. Garner, K. Hammer, Hester,*
6 *B. Johnson, D. Sullivan, C. Tucker, D. Wallace*
7 By: Representatives Ray, *Beaty Jr., M. Berry, Boyd, Brooks, Brown, Furman, Haak, McCollum,*
8 *Underwood, Wardlaw*

For An Act To Be Entitled

11 AN ACT TO CREATE THE WORKFORCE EXPANSION ACT OF 2021;
12 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

16 TO CREATE THE WORKFORCE EXPANSION ACT OF
17 2021.

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 4, Chapter 25, Subchapter 1, is amended
23 to add an additional section to read as follows:

24 4-25-110. Fee waiver for certain individuals.

25 (a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the initial filing fees,
26 permit fees, and licensing fees associated with the formation of a business
27 in this state shall be waived for applicants who meet the requirements in the
28 Workforce Expansion Act of 2021, § 17-4-101 et seq.

29 (b) Appropriate state entities shall:

30 (1) Publish notice of the fee waiver on:

31 (A) The website maintained by the appropriate state
32 entity; and

33 (B) Any relevant forms that an applicant is required to
34 complete; and

35 (2) Promulgate any necessary rules to implement this section.
36



1 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 17, is amended to add an additional
2 chapter to read as follows:

3 Chapter 4 – Workforce Expansion Act of 2021

4
5 17-4-101. Title.

6 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Workforce
7 Expansion Act of 2021".

8
9 17-4-102. Legislative findings – Purpose.

10 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

11 (1) Entrepreneurs and workers must pay various fees in order to
12 work in a government-regulated profession or occupation or to start a small
13 business in Arkansas;

14 (2) Families trying to break the cycle of government dependency
15 should not have to pay the state to earn a living; and

16 (3) Arkansas should waive initial fees associated with
17 occupational and professional regulations and the formation of a business for
18 low-income individuals.

19 (b) It is the purpose of this chapter to increase access to
20 professional and occupational licenses that would otherwise be cost
21 prohibitive for certain individuals.

22
23 17-4-103. Definitions.

24 As used in this chapter:

25 (1) "License" means a license, certificate, registration,
26 permit, or other form of authorization required by law or rule that is
27 required for an individual to engage in a particular occupation or
28 profession; and

29 (2)(A) "Licensing entity" means an office, board, commission,
30 department, council, bureau, or other agency of state government having
31 authority to license, certify, register, permit, or otherwise authorize an
32 individual to engage in a particular occupation or profession.

33 (B) "Licensing entity" does not include a political
34 subdivision of the state or any other local or regional governmental entity,
35 including without limitation a city of the first class, a city of the second
36 class, an incorporated town, or a county.

1 17-4-104. Fee waiver.

2 (a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a licensing entity shall
3 not require an initial fee for individuals who are seeking to receive a
4 license in this state if the applicant:

5 (1) Is receiving assistance through the Arkansas Medicaid
6 Program, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Special
7 Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, the
8 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program, or the Lifeline Assistance
9 Program;

10 (2) Was approved for unemployment within the last twelve (12)
11 months; or

12 (3) Has an income that does not exceed two hundred percent
13 (200%) of the federal poverty income guidelines.

14 (b) The waiver of the initial fee does not include fees for:

15 (1) A criminal background check;

16 (2) An examination or a test; or

17 (3) A medical or drug test.

18 (c) The Department of Human Services and the Division of Workforce
19 Services shall collaborate with a licensing entity concerning verification of
20 eligibility for public benefits for applicants, which may include obtaining a
21 signed consent form from the applicant.

22
23 17-4-105. Licensing entity duties.

24 A licensing entity shall:

25 (1) Publish notice of the fee waiver on:

26 (A) The website maintained by the licensing entity; and

27 (B) Any relevant forms that an applicant is required to
28 complete; and

29 (2) Promulgate any necessary rules to implement this chapter.

30
31 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

32 SECTIONS 1 and 2 of this act shall be effective on and after January 1,
33 2022.

34
35 /s/Gilmore

36 APPROVED: 4/15/21

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1735

5 By: Representative Penzo
6 By: Senator Hester
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE OCCUPATIONAL OR PROFESSIONAL
10 LICENSURE FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS; AND FOR OTHER
11 PURPOSES.
12
13

Subtitle

14 TO AUTHORIZE OCCUPATIONAL OR PROFESSIONAL
15 LICENSURE FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.
16
17
18

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
20

21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 1, Subchapter 1, is amended
22 to add an additional section to read as follows:

23 17-1-109. Licensing of certain individuals – Definitions.

24 (a) As used in this section:

25 (1) "Occupational or professional license" means a license,
26 certificate, registration, permit, or other form of authorization required by
27 law or rule for an individual to engage in a particular occupation or
28 profession; and

29 (2) "Occupational or professional licensing entity" means an
30 office, board, commission, department, council, bureau, or other agency of
31 state government having authority to license, certify, register, permit, or
32 otherwise authorize an individual to engage in a particular occupation or
33 profession.

34 (b) An occupational or professional licensing entity shall grant an
35 occupational or professional license under this section to an individual who
36 fulfills the requirements to practice an occupation or profession in this



1 state and is a person who holds a Federal Form I-766 United States
2 Citizenship and Immigration Services-issued Employment Authorization
3 Document, known popularly as a "work permit".

4 (c) This section is a state law within the meaning of subsection (d)
5 of 8 U.S.C. § 1621, as existing on January 1, 2021.

6
7 SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Rules implementing this act.

8 (a) All occupational or professional licensing entities shall
9 promulgate rules necessary to implement this act.

10 (b)(1) When adopting the initial rules to implement this act, the
11 final rule shall be filed with the Secretary of State for adoption under §
12 25-15-204(f):

13 (A) On or before January 1, 2022; or

14 (B) If approval under § 10-3-309 has not occurred by
15 January 1, 2022, as soon as practicable after approval under § 10-3-309.

16 (2) An occupational or professional licensing entity shall file
17 the proposed rule with the Legislative Council under § 10-3-309(c)
18 sufficiently in advance of January 1, 2022, so that the Legislative Council
19 may consider the rule for approval before January 1, 2022.

20
21
22 **APPROVED: 4/19/21**
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36