

Alaska State Legislature

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House Ways and Means

CS For House Bill 277 (W&M) v.S LICENSING RECIPROCITY; FEES

Sectional Analysis

An Act relating to occupational licensing; relating to reciprocity and licensure by comity, credentials, and endorsement for occupational licenses; relating to occupational license fees; relating to exemptions to licensing for contractors; relating to collection agencies; relating to dispensing opticians; relating to taxidermy; relating to control of nuisance wild birds and small animals for compensation; relating to licensing and fees for school bus and commercial motor vehicle drivers; relating to licensing and fees for certain occupations related to pesticides and broadcast chemicals; and providing for an effective date.

Section 1

Amends the Alaska trust company act exemptions to add conforming language for fiduciaries.

Section 2

Amends the centralized licensing statute (AS 08.01) to limit total fees collected by the state for occupational licenses to the total national average fees for each occupation.

Section 3

Adds a new section to the centralized licensing statute (AS 08.01) to require departments and appropriate boards to issue licenses to an applicant for a license which the applicant holds a comparable license in another jurisdiction. The applicant must hold a current license in another state, district, or territory of the United States and has actively used the license during the past two years. Fingerprint and criminal history checks or waiver of confidentiality will be required if required for a license in Alaska. Applicants must be in good standing in their existing license issuing jurisdiction.

Exceptions to this requirement are for real estate appraisers, big game transporters, and animal control agencies who have federal requirements, and for general business licenses.

Sections 4-8

Amends telehealth statute to add to the definition of health care providers practicing dispensing opticians instead of licensed dispensing opticians. Adds physicians licensed in another state adhere to the requirements of health care providers practicing telehealth in Alaska.

Section 9

Amends the telehealth statute to add conforming language for eliminating the licensing requirement for dispensing opticians.

Section 10

Amends the public account statute to add conforming language.

Section 11

Amends the general provisions of the centralized licensing statutes to conform to the definition of license.

Section 12

Conforms the definition of “principal place of business,” for accountants.

Section 13

Conforming language for acupuncture and oriental medicine.

Section 14

Amends the construction contractors to exempt from licensing requirements contractors who only perform contract work related to carpentry, cabinet making, cement finishing, door repair, drywall installation, floor sanding, glazing, insulation, iron and steel, masonry, painting, paving, pipelaying, sheet metal, or terrazzo.

Section 15

Amends definitions to remove sheet metal from mechanical contractors.

Section 16

Amends licensing and regulation fees to add conforming language for chiropractors.

Section 17

Amends publication of applicable law to remove reference to licensing of collection agencies.

Section 18

Amends the *license required* statute to remove collection agencies from required licensure.

Section 19

Amends annual statement of collection to remove licensing requirements for collection agencies.

Section 20

Adds conforming language to *information confidential* statute for collections agencies to remove ability to revoke a license.

Section 21

Adds conforming language to investigations of collection agencies to remove licensing reference.

Section 22

Adds conforming language to maintaining actions or suits on behalf of a collection agency client to remove reference to licensing.

Section 23

Adds conforming language to duty to maintain public office for collection agencies to remove reference to licensing.

Section 24

Adds conforming language for collection agency operations.

Section 25

Adds conforming language to form submission requirements for collection agencies.

Section 26

Changes the definition of collection agency from “licensed” to “engaging in the collection agency business.”

Section 27

Conforming language for collection agencies.

Section 28

Amends dental hygienist language to conform to universal reciprocity language in this bill.

Section 29

Amends dentistry statute to require an applicant for a specialist license to meet the requirements of the profession but not current licensure statutes, to conform with reciprocity language in this bill.

Section 30

Amends architects, engineers, land surveyors, and landscape architects to remove board requirement to approve comity of applications to conform with reciprocity language in this bill.

Section 31

Removes comity provision for registration of professional architects, professional engineers, land surveyors, of landscape architects to conform with reciprocity language in this bill.

Section 32

Amends fees for medical professionals to eliminate license by endorsement to conform with universal reciprocity language in this bill.

Section 33

Amends midwives' statute to eliminate reference to licensure by credentials to conform with reciprocity language in this bill.

Section 34

Amends optometrist statute to remove reference to licensing for dispensing opticians.

Section 35

Amends board of pharmacy statute to remove reference to dispensing opticians' licensure.

Section 36

Amends pharmacists and pharmacies to remove license by transfer to conform to universal reciprocity in this bill.

Section 37

Adds conforming language to dispensing opticians.

Section 38

Amends physical therapists and occupational therapists to conform with reciprocity language in this bill.

Section 39

Adds conforming language to temporary permits for physical and occupational therapists to conform with reciprocity language in this bill.

Section 40

Adds conforming language to temporary permits for social work practice.

Section 41

Amends definition of health care provider for medical malpractice to eliminate dispensing optician.

Section 42

Adds criminal justice background requirements for applicators of pesticides and broadcast chemicals if required by the department.

Section 43

Amends license, tags, and subsistence permits statute to removes reference to licensure for taxidermy and control of nuisance wild birds and nuisance wild small mammals.

Section 44

Conforming language for nuisance wild birds and small animals.

Section 45

Amends the licensing statute to limit fees collected by the state for emergency medical practitioners' licenses to the national average fees for those occupations.

Section 46

Adds a new section to the emergency medical practitioners' licensing statute to require department to issue licenses to an applicant for a license which the applicant holds a comparable license in another jurisdiction. The applicant must hold a current license in another state, district, or territory of the United States and has actively used the license during the past two years. Fingerprint and criminal history checks will be required if required for a license. Applicants must be in good standing in their existing license issuing jurisdiction.

Section 47

Amends definition of health care provider for medical review organization to change licensed dispensing optician to practicing dispensing optician.

Section 48

Amends the school bus drivers' licensing statute to require department to issue licenses to an applicant for a license which the applicant holds a comparable license in another jurisdiction. The applicant must hold a current license in another state, district, or territory of the United States and has actively used the license during the past two years.

Section 49

Amends the commercial motor vehicles licensing statute to require department to issue licenses to an applicant for a license which the applicant holds a comparable license in another jurisdiction. The applicant must hold a current license in another state, district, or territory of the United States and has actively used the license during the past two years.

Section 50

Refers to language under Section 46.

Section 51

Adds new language to commercial driver's license statute to limit fees collected by the state for licenses to the national average fees for that occupation.

Section 52

Amends commercial driver's license statutes to reflect universal reciprocity requirements in this bill.

Section 53

Amends the Alaska business and license act to require occupations whose license requirements are being removed to continue to comply with all regulatory provisions for that occupation.

Section 54

Amends the licensing statute to limit fees collected by the state for pesticides and broadcast handlers' licenses to the national average fees for those occupations.

Section 55

Adds a new section to the pesticides and broadcast chemical licensing statute to require department to issue licenses to an applicant for a license which the applicant holds a comparable license in another jurisdiction. The applicant must hold a current license in another state, district, or territory of the United States and has actively used the license during the past two years. Fingerprint and criminal history checks will be required if required for a license. Applicants must be in good standing in their existing license issuing jurisdiction.

Section 56

Repeals subsections of the centralized licensing statute that remove licensing requirements, allow for reciprocity or fees in current statutes that are being superseded in this bill.

License requirements that are repealed in this bill are: dispensing opticians, collection agencies, commercial removal of nuisance wild birds and small animals, taxidermy, and specialty contractors who only perform contract work related to carpentry, cabinet making, cement finishing, door repair, drywall installation, floor sanding, glazing, insulation, iron and steel, masonry, painting, paving, pipelaying, sheet metal, or terrazzo.

Repealed statutes for conforming purposes include: barbers, hairdressers, or aestheticians, behavioral analysts, operator of a collection agency, collection agents, professional counselors, dental hygienists, dentistry, dieticians and nutritionists, medical examiners, morticians, architecture, big game guides, massage therapists, marital and family therapy, physician, osteopath, podiatry, and midwives, motor vehicle dealers, practical nurse applicants, nursing fees, nursing home administrator, dispensing opticians, contact lens dispensers, optometry,

pharmacists, physical therapists, phycologists and psychological associates, and veterinary medicine.

Section 57

Provides for a transition: on or after July 1, 2025, a person who holds a valid license, certificate, registration, or endorsement by reciprocity, comity, credentials, may continue to practice under the license, permit, registration, or endorsement until it expires normally or is suspended or revoked.

Section 58

Provides for an effective date of July 1, 2025.