



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

UNIVERSAL TEMPORARY LICENSURE

(CSHB 85(L&C) – VERSION B)

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House Military and Veterans'
Affairs Committee
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Professional Licensing Overview

PROFESSIONAL LICENSING PROGRAM REGULATION

- 21 programs are regulated by licensing boards; these 21 programs offer 180 different license types
- 24 programs are regulated by the division; these 24 programs offer 81 different license types
- 261 license, permit, certification, and endorsement types within the 45 programs
- Over 400 pathways to initial licensure within the 45 programs
- Each program has its own statutes and regulations, and therefore has its own processes and requirements
- Each program may differ slightly on its requirements for licensure compared to its counterparts in other states due to statutes or regulations adopted by the Alaska Legislature and Alaska board or the department (as applicable)

STAFFING

- Most of our programs are handled by one staff member, who not only handles all licensing duties but also in some cases staffs a board
- Many staff members take on more than one program – usually one boarded program and then one or more smaller, department-regulated program
- Programs with significantly larger license numbers – such as nursing, construction contractors, pharmacy, and medical – are staffed by bare bone teams (i.e., as few staff members as needed to get the job done to keep program costs down per AS 08.01.065)

INCREASES IN PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

- 24% increase in professional licenses since FY19
- 64% increase in professional licenses over the last 10 years



21 Programs Regulated by Boards

- Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors (22 license types)
- Board of Barbers and Hairdressers (22 license types)
- Big Game Commercial Services Board (6 license types)
- Board of Chiropractic Examiners (4 license types)
- Board of Dental Examiners (15 license types)
- Board of Marine Pilots (3 license types)
- State Medical Board (11 license types)
- Board of Marital and Family Therapy (4 license types)
- Board of Massage Therapists (3 license types)
- Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives (4 license types)
- Board of Nursing (8 license types)
- Board of Examiners in Optometry (2 license types)
- Board of Professional Counselors (3 license types)
- Board of Pharmacy (18 license types)
- Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy (12 license types)
- Board of Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiners (4 license types)
- Board of Public Accountancy (8 license types)
- Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers (10 license types)
- Real Estate Commission (10 license types)
- Board of Social Work Examiners (6 license types)
- Board of Veterinary Examiners (5 license types)



24 Programs Regulated by Division

- Acupuncture (2 license types)
- Animal Euthanasia Permits (2 license types)
- Athletic Training (2 license types)
- Audiology (2 license types)
- Behavior Analysts (4 license types)
- Collection Agencies (6 license types)
- Concert Promoters (2 license types)
- Construction Contractors and Residential Endorsements (6 license types)
- Dietitians (2 license types)
- Dispensing Opticians (4 license types)
- Electrical Administrators (2 license types)
- Geologists (2 license types)
- Guardians and Conservators (10 license types)
- Hearing Aid Dealers (2 license types)
- Home Inspectors (6 license types)
- Mechanical Administrators (2 license types)
- Morticians (12 license types)
- Naturopaths (2 license types)
- Nursing Home Administrators (3 license types)
- Nutritionists (2 license types)
- Pawnbrokers (2 license types)
- Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (N/A)
- Speech-Language Pathology (4 license types)
- Telemedicine Business Registry (N/A)
- Underground Storage Tank Workers (2 license types)



What is Universal Temporary Licensure?

Universal Temporary Licensure (UTL) is a measure that establishes a pathway for limited reciprocity for qualified professionals who:

- Hold substantially equivalent licenses in other U.S. jurisdictions or
- Meet the qualifications for Alaska licensure through military education, training, and service and does not already hold a license in another jurisdiction



How Does One Qualify for UTL?

Applicant cannot:

- Be the subject of disciplinary action related to their profession or be the subject of ongoing review or disciplinary proceeding by the professional licensing entity in another jurisdiction or
- Have committed an act in another jurisdiction within the past 10 years that would have constituted grounds for denial or revocation of a license in Alaska at the time the act was committed

Applicant must:

- Submit application and provide documents required to verify:
 - Licensure in good standing in another U.S. jurisdiction; or
 - Proof of meeting Alaska's qualifications with military education, training, and service per AS 08.01.064(a)
- Undergo a criminal history background check if required for that profession in Alaska
- Pay all required fees



How Does UTL Work?

- Temporary licenses are **valid for up to 180 days**
- Applicants can apply for one 180-day extension (*approved at the department's discretion*)
- Temporary license holders are authorized to temporarily practice the profession for which the license was granted **in compliance with Alaska's laws**
- The department has the **authority to revoke** a temporary license if the license was secured under deceit, fraud, or intentional misrepresentation
- Temporary license provisions **do not apply to:**
 - AS 08.48: Architects, Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Landscape Architects;
 - AS 08.54: Big Game Guides and Related Occupations; or
 - AS 08.62: Marine Pilots



Why is UTL Needed?

- Boards were given the authority to create temporary licenses under AS 08.01.062, but many still have not
- Processing times are long for many programs due to increased workloads
 - Increase of 64% in the number of professional licenses (FY12-FY22)
- Allows the department to issue qualified professionals a temporary license as part of the permanent licensure process once the required items for the temporary license have been received
 - Allows qualified professionals to begin working more quickly
 - Limits the additional work created by making the temporary license part of the permanent licensure process (if the applicant wants a permanent license)



How Do We Know UTL Will Help?

- The Alaska State Medical Board and Alaska Board of Nursing led the way in making temporary permits part of the permanent licensure process
- These temporary permits allow physicians, physician assistants, registered nurses, and licensed practical nurses to get to work quicker while we wait on items from third-parties (such as verifications of work experience, verifications of hospital privileges, etc.
- Previously, applicants would have to specify if they wanted a temporary license when submitting their application for a permanent license or apply for it separately from the permanent license
- Medical and nursing professionals, hospitals, and health care facilities are happier under this current process
- We currently have similar provisions available to active-duty military members and their spouses under AS 08.01.063 (*due to SB 21 passed last year*)



UTL vs. Compacts

Source: Council of State Governments

Criteria	Universal Licensure Recognition Laws	Interstate Licensure Compacts
Requires practitioners to abide by the scope of practice of the state in which they are practicing	✓	✓
Allows for expeditious interstate movement of practitioners during emergencies	✓	✓
Reduces barriers for out-of-state practitioners aiming to practice within a state	✓ ¹	✓
Reduces barriers for in-state practitioners intending to practice in other state(s)	✗	✓
Allows military spouses to maintain a single home state license for the duration of the service member's active duty, regardless of relocations, without submitting a separate application to each state's licensure board	✗	✓ ²
Allows practitioners to work in multiple state, both in person and via telehealth/telework, without submitting a separate application to each state's licensure board, requiring verification of the current license or obtaining a new background check	✗	✓
Brings together a coalition of states to establish consistent and enforceable interstate licensure standards tailored to the public protection requirements of a given profession	✗	✓
Enhances public protection by creating a multistate database of licensure information to facilitate collaboration on license verification and investigations of potential misconduct	✗	✓
Allows multistate practice without requiring practitioners to change state of residence	Sometimes ¹	✓ ³
Allows practitioners to work in multiple states while adhering to only one state's continuing education requirements and license renewal schedule	✗	✓

¹ Some states—such as Arizona and Iowa—have universal licensure recognition laws that require practitioners to reside in the state, while others—such as Colorado and Idaho—do not.

² This is true only if practitioners relocate to a compact member state. License verification is based on practitioners complying with compact criteria for privilege to practice in another member state.

³ This is applicable when practitioners travel from one compact member state to another.



The Council of State Governments (CSG) identified 18 states as of May 2022 that have enacted some type of universal recognition policy for out-of-state licensed professionals.





Thank You

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