THE STATE of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

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

UNIVERSAL TEMPORARY LICENSURE

(HB 85)

Sylvan Robb
Director

House Labor and Commerce
March 8, 2023

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. and Canadian jurisdictions or
- Have demonstrated substantial compliance with licensing requirements in Alaska but live in a U.S. jurisdiction or Canadian territory/province where the profession is not licensed or
- Meets 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 jurisdiction
  - Lack of licensure in their jurisdiction of residence and proof of meeting Alaska's qualifications 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

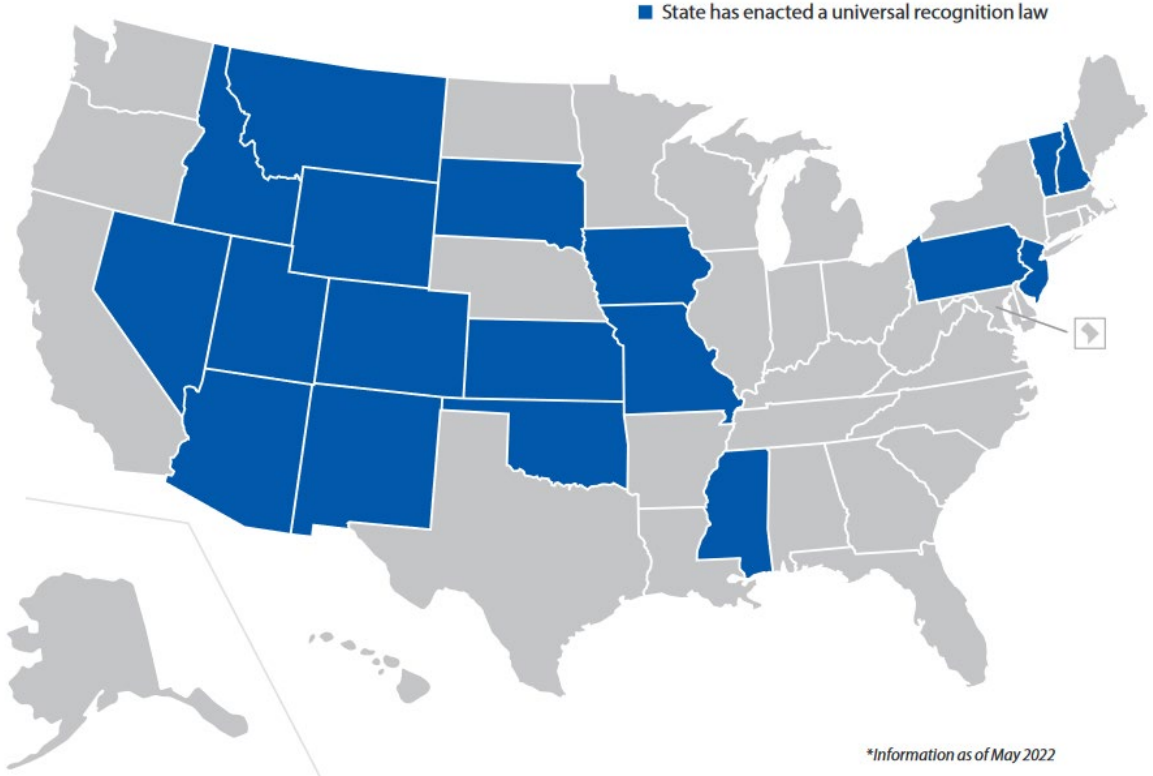
Source: Council of State Governments

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 is 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.

UTLs in Other States

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

Sylvan Robb

Division Director

Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing (CBPL)

Sylvan.Robb@alaska.gov

(907) 465-2524