



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 203

January Session, 2021

Substitute House Bill No. 6449

House of Representatives, March 30, 2021

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. STEINBERG of the 136th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY IN OCCUPATIONS LICENSED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2021*) (a) The Department of
2 Public Health shall issue an occupational or professional license, permit,
3 certification or registration issued by the Department of Public Health
4 shall be issued, in the occupation or profession applied for and at a
5 practice level determined by the department, to a person who is (1) a
6 resident of this state as defined in section 12-701 of the general statutes,
7 or (2) married to an active duty member of the armed forces of the
8 United States and accompanies said member, pursuant to an official
9 permanent change of station, to a military installation located in this
10 state if:

11 (A) The person holds a valid license, permit, certification or
12 registration in at least one other jurisdiction in the occupation or
13 profession applied for;

14 (B) The person has practiced under such license, permit, certification
15 or registration for not less than one year;

16 (C) The person is in good standing in all jurisdictions in which he or
17 she holds a license, permit, certification or registration and has not had
18 a license, permit, certification or registration revoked or discipline
19 imposed by any jurisdiction, does not have a complaint, allegation or
20 investigation related to unprofessional conduct pending in any
21 jurisdiction, and has not voluntarily surrendered a license, permit,
22 certification or registration while under investigation for unprofessional
23 conduct in any jurisdiction;

24 (D) The person satisfies any background check or character and
25 fitness check required of other applicants for the license, permit,
26 certification or registration; and

27 (E) The person pays all fees required of other applicants for the
28 license, permit, certification or registration.

29 (b) In addition to the requirements set forth in subsection (a) of this
30 section, the Department of Public Health may require a person to take
31 and pass all or a portion of any examination required of other persons
32 applying for the license, permit, certification or registration.

33 (c) Any person issued a license, permit, certification or registration
34 pursuant to this section shall be subject to the laws of this state and the
35 jurisdiction of the Department of Public Health.

36 (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, and pursuant to
37 section 19a-14 of the general statutes, the Commissioner of Public
38 Health may deny an occupational or professional license, permit,
39 certification or registration if he or she finds such denial is in the best
40 interest of the state.

41 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2021*) (a) The Commissioner of Public Health
42 shall convene working groups to determine whether Connecticut
43 should join any interstate licensure compacts.

44 (b) Such working groups shall consist of (1) the Commissioner of
45 Public Health, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,
46 and the executive director of the Office of Health Strategy, or their
47 designees, (2) the chair of the appropriate board of examiners or
48 advisory board, or his or her designee, (3) a representative of the
49 appropriate state professional association, (4) a representative of the
50 professional assistance program for regulated professions established
51 pursuant to section 19a-12a of the general statutes, and (5) any other
52 members the Commissioner of Public Health deems appropriate. Each
53 working group shall convene not later than sixty days after the effective
54 date of this section.

55 (c) Not later than January 15, 2022, the Commissioner of Public
56 Health shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of
57 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of
58 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
59 health. Such report shall include recommendations that reflect the
60 determinations pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. The working
61 groups shall terminate upon the submission of the report.

62 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2021*) Not later than January 15, 2022, the
63 Commissioner of Public Health shall submit a report, in accordance
64 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
65 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
66 matters relating to public health. Such report shall be developed in
67 consultation with such boards or commissions as the commissioner
68 deems appropriate and shall recommend whether it would be in the
69 best interest of the state (1) for any examination administered by the
70 state pursuant to chapters 369 to 388, inclusive, chapter 393a, chapters
71 395 to 417, inclusive, chapters 435 to 449, inclusive, or chapters 474 to
72 483, inclusive, of the general statutes to be administered by a national
73 organization acceptable to the Department of Public Health, and (2) to
74 reduce any experience and training requirements while increasing any
75 such examination's ability to test applicants' knowledge or skills.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2021</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 202</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(a), provisions were rewritten for clarity. In Sections 2 and 3, "(NEW)" was deleted for accuracy.

PH *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which (among other requirements) tasks the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health with convening working groups to determine whether Connecticut should join any interstate licensure compacts, is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact to the state or municipalities. PA 17-236 prohibits transportation allowances for working group members.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6449

AN ACT EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY IN OCCUPATIONS LICENSED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

SUMMARY

This bill generally makes it easier for health care professionals licensed in other states to obtain a Connecticut credential if they reside here. It does so by generally requiring the Department of Public Health (DPH) to issue the appropriate license or other credential to a state resident, or a spouse of an active duty service member permanently stationed here, if that person meets specified requirements (e.g., has practiced under a valid credential in another jurisdiction for at least a year and has no disciplinary history). It allows DPH to (1) require these applicants to pass examinations required of other applicants and (2) deny a credential if the commissioner finds it to be in the state's best interest.

The bill requires the DPH commissioner to (1) convene working groups to determine whether Connecticut should join any interstate licensure compacts and (2) report to the Public Health Committee on the groups' recommendations by January 15, 2022.

Finally, the bill requires the DPH commissioner to report on whether it would be in the state's best interest to (1) replace any state exams for certain credentialed professionals with tests by national organizations that DPH deems acceptable and (2) reduce any experience and training requirements while increasing testing of applicants' knowledge or skills. Generally, this provision applies to DPH-credentialed professionals and other specified professionals credentialed by certain other agencies (principally, the Department of Consumer Protection). She must report to the Public Health Committee by January 15, 2022,

and develop the report in consultation with whatever boards or commissions she deems appropriate.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2021, for the credentialing provision and July 1, 2021, for the working group and reporting provisions.

§ 1 — DPH CREDENTIALING

Existing law provides for licensure by endorsement (also called licensure without examination) for several categories of health care professionals who are licensed in other states. Generally, this applies if DPH determines that the other state's licensure standards are substantially similar to, or higher than, those of this state.

The bill generally requires DPH to issue an occupational or professional license, permit, certification, or registration (hereinafter, "credential") to a state resident or an accompanying spouse of an active duty service member permanently stationed here if that person:

1. holds a valid credential in the applicable profession in at least one other jurisdiction and has practiced under that credential for at least a year;
2. is in good standing in all jurisdictions where credentialed and has no disciplinary history (including credential revocation or other discipline; pending complaints, allegations, or investigations related to unprofessional conduct; or voluntary surrender of a credential during an investigation);
3. satisfies any background, character, or fitness check required of other applicants; and
4. pays any credentialing fees required of other applicants.

These provisions apply to DPH-issued credentials. DPH determines the practice level of the credential. The bill specifies that anyone issued a credential under these provisions is subject to Connecticut law and DPH jurisdiction.

The bill also allows DPH to (1) require any such person to pass an examination (or part of one) required of other applicants and (2) deny an application if the commissioner finds it to be in the state's best interest (e.g., if the applicant has committed an act which would not conform to the accepted standards of practice of the profession).

§ 2 — INTERSTATE LICENSURE COMPACT WORKING GROUPS

The bill requires the DPH commissioner to convene working groups to determine whether the state should join any interstate licensure compacts. Any such groups must convene by August 30, 2021.

The groups must include:

1. the DPH commissioner, the Office of Policy and Management secretary, the Office of Health Strategy executive director, and the chair of the appropriate examining or advisory board, or their designees;
2. a representative of the appropriate state professional association;
3. a representative of the professional assistance program for regulated health professions (HAVEN); and
4. anyone else the DPH commissioner deems appropriate.

By January 15, 2022, the commissioner must report to the Public Health Committee on the groups' recommendations. The working groups end when she submits her report.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 26 Nay 7 (03/12/2021)