



MEMO

TO: Senate General Government and Agency Review Committee
FROM: Nick Adolphsen, Visiting Fellow, Opportunity Solutions Project
DATE: December 8, 2020
RE: Senate Bill 246—License Reciprocity Safety

Thank you for the opportunity to share additional information on the safety provisions of Occupational License Reciprocity language contained in Senate Bill 246.

Ways Senate Bill 246 will keep Ohio safe and working:

- All applicants must demonstrate their occupational experience to licensing authorities.
 - Applicants moving to Ohio with out-of-state licenses must have been licensed for 1 year.
 - Applicants moving to Ohio from states that didn't license the occupation must have 3 years of work experience in the profession.
- Licensed applicants must be in good standing in any jurisdiction in which they are licensed. They also cannot have any professional complaints against them.
- Applicants are only eligible for Ohio licenses at the same practice level as their out-of-state licenses or equivalent work experience, as determined by licensing authorities.
- Licensing authorities have the discretion to require applicants to pass licensing exams regarding Ohio's laws.
- Applicants must clear criminal background checks.

Twenty-four states introduced legislation for licensing recognition in 2020, and 7 states have already passed reform, including Pennsylvania, Iowa, and Missouri. Momentum will continue to grow for reform in light of COVID-19. The majority of states tested this policy in the highly regulated medical industry in response to the public emergency, and now states will be looking for ways to stay competitive as they work to get their economies back on track.