

Minutes of the
Occupational Licensing Reform (OLR) Workgroup
Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
TEAMS Conference Call

Members present: Katie Ralston Howe, Representative Cindy Schreiber - Beck, Representative Emily O'Brien, Senator Kristin Roers, Senator Judy Lee, Major Jay Sheldon, Rick Gardner, Dr. Nizar Wehbi, Janna Pastir

Guests: Andrea Pfennig

Presenter: Mike Zimmer

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Representative Cindy Schreiber-Beck called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m., welcoming members to the OLR subcommittee via the Microsoft TEAMS video conferencing platform.

**LICENSURE MOBILITY FOR INTRANATIONALLY EDUCATED and/or
LICENSED PROFESSIONALS**

Mike Zimmer, World Education Services

Most states that are involved in creating pathways or removing barriers for internationally trained immigrants and refugees focus in two ways:

- 1.) Licensure by Endorsement – this process is used by licensing agencies for cross state mobility.
- 2.) Pathways in areas of high shortage such as internationally trained doctors
International Medical Graduates (IMG)
 1. Those that have or had experience & licensure in their country of training.
 - **Sponsorship Pathway**
 2. Those that have or have not completed all of their residency, or their residency is old.

This **Sponsorship Pathway** is being set up in other states in professions such as dentistry, and architecture. It has requirements of prior licensure and allows **international doctors** to not repeat residency.

Currently in ND and most other states, an international doctor will need to complete residency, even if they have completed an international residency.

With this Sponsorship Pathway:

The international doctor will work under the supervision of a fully licensed doctor for a period of years. Leading to a restrictive license, that requires the doctor to serve in a rural or underserved region of the state and after a period of years, they are eligible for full licensure.

Bills for this sponsorship pathway were:

Passed in:

Tennessee, Illinois, Colorado, Idaho, Washington, Florida, Wisconsin, Virginia.

Pending in:

Iowa

Moving forward in:

Minnesota, Arizona, Maine

In play in:

Michigan, New York, Massachusetts, Vermont, North Carolina.

TEACHERS

Legislation passed in:

Virginia, and Michigan for internationally licensed teachers.

- Michigan tied legislation to tribal licensure. Being internationally licensed, the teacher is eligible to be considered for full licensure in the United States, with the passing of tests in the U.S.
- Virginia – temporary licensure for international licensed teacher while pending testing in the U.S.

NURSING

- ND ahead of the curve
- International trained nurses

Barriers

- Some states limit the credential evaluation approval entity to one.
- Some states have opened it up to 2-4 approvals, as long as the state approves the entity.
- English language assessments, some states are limited on the services they can use, due to scoring requirements.

CONSTRUCTION TRADES

Apprenticeship – Journeyman – License

- Skills assessment models in the trades. An immigrant with prior license experience falls within the progression.
- Canada ahead of the U.S. with this assessment modeling.

Discussion Points

- Remote training for nurses
- Bridge professions for encouragement of licensed professionals to fill other positions, while returning to their career
- Baseline understanding of population to be served
- Commerce grant to help expand skilled workforce training programs – could be used as a pilot to build into a larger concept for own appropriation depending on the need.
- Partnership with the New American and Foreign-Born Immigrant Advisory Committee – Workforce Survey for the communities to respond with licensing and training in their home country, that would be interested in or built into a system.
- Chamber might have connection with new immigrants.
- Word of mouth connection in schools and rural communities.
- Employer buy in
- Office of Legal immigration sources

NEXT STEPS

Next meeting in May, times could be adjusted accordingly.

Agenda items:

- Indiana presenter on compacts and effectiveness
- Resources from Senator Judy Lee
- Notes from Senator Judy Lee
- Bills to discuss from Sen. Judy Lee and Rep. Cindy Schreiber Beck
- Follow up with Addiction Counselors & Licensing Requirements in various states

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.