

1 H.606

2 Introduced by Representatives Cole of Hartford, Dodge of Essex, and

3 Holcombe of Norwich

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Executive; Secretary of State; professional regulation; immigration

7 status

8 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to enable
9 individuals who meet the requirements for professional licenses to be granted
10 those licenses regardless of their immigration status or lack thereof.

11 An act relating to professional licensure and immigration status

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 Sec. 1. PURPOSE

14 (a) The purpose of this act is to amend the laws of Vermont to allow any
15 individual who meets the standards required by the State to obtain a
16 professional or occupational license, regardless of that individual's
17 immigration status.

18 (b) The General Assembly acts pursuant to the authority provided in
19 section 411 of the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity

1 Reconciliation Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104–193, Title IV, § 411, codified at
2 8 U.S.C. § 1621(d), as such section existed on January 1, 2024.

3 (c) Nothing in this act shall be construed to grant eligibility for any public
4 benefits, as defined in 8 U.S.C. § 1621(c), other than obtaining a professional
5 license.

6 Sec. 2. 3 V.S.A. § 139 is added to read:

7 § 139. IMMIGRATION STATUS

8 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, an applicant shall
9 not be denied any professional license enumerated in this title on the basis of
10 the applicant’s citizenship status or immigration status or lack thereof.

11 (b) If an applicant is required by State law to provide a social security
12 number for the purpose of obtaining or maintaining a professional license
13 under this title, the applicant may provide a federal employer identification
14 number, individual taxpayer identification number, or social security number.

15 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

16 This act shall take effect on January 1, 2025.