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H.606

Introduced by Representatives Cole of Hartford, Dodge of Essex, and  
Holcombe of Norwich

Referred to Committee on

Date:

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

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

An act relating to professional licensure and immigration status

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

~~Sec. 1. PURPOSE~~

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

~~(b) The General Assembly acts pursuant to the authority provided in 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.

*(b) If an applicant is required by State law to provide a Social Security  
number for the purpose of obtaining or maintaining a professional license  
under this title, the applicant may provide a federal employer identification  
number, an individual taxpayer identification number, or a Social Security  
number; provided, however, that an applicant shall provide a Social Security  
number if a federal law or an interstate compact of which the State is a*

~~member requires that an applicant provide a Social Security number to obtain  
or maintain a professional license.~~

1 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

2 ~~This act shall take effect on January 1, 2025.~~

*Sec. 1. PURPOSE*

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

*(b) The General Assembly acts pursuant to the authority provided in section 411 of the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104–193, Title IV, § 411, codified at 8 U.S.C. § 1621(d), as such section existed on January 1, 2024.*

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

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

*§ 139. IMMIGRATION STATUS*

*(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, an applicant shall not be denied any professional license or certification enumerated in this*

title or Titles 16, 20, or 26 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated on the basis of the applicant's citizenship status or immigration status or lack thereof.

(b) If an applicant is required by State law to provide a Social Security number for the purpose of obtaining or maintaining a professional license or certification under this title or Titles 16, 20, or 26 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated, the applicant may provide a federal employer identification number, an individual taxpayer identification number, or a Social Security number; provided, however, that an applicant shall provide a Social Security number if a federal law or an interstate compact of which the State is a member requires that an applicant provide a Social Security number to obtain or maintain a professional license.

*Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE*

This act shall take effect on September 1, 2024.