



Professions & Occupations

The General Assembly considered several bills regulating professions and occupations, including legislation to make modifications to the apprenticeship programs for plumbers and electricians, bills to make changes to professional liability insurance requirements for physician assistants, and bills to continue the regulation of several professions.

Senate Bill 20-120 creates licensing examination requirements for electrician and plumber apprentices. The law requires employers, apprenticeship programs, and a state apprenticeship council to report the number of training and classroom hours of each apprentice to the State Electrical or the State Plumbing Boards. The boards must report that information to the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) online apprenticeship directory. An apprentice that fails two consecutive licensing examinations may request an exemption from further testing. The bill further requires DORA, the Department of Labor and Employment, and the boards to conduct research to identify barriers in the preparation for and taking of licensing examinations by apprentices for whom English is a second language and report any findings to the General Assembly by January 1, 2021.

House Bill 20-1165 modifies language in the Colorado Architects' Practice Act to clarify when a local government can reject a building permit application submitted by an interior designer. The application may be rejected for a reason provided in law such as a local

government ordinance, resolution, or building code. The bill further clarifies that interior designers must maintain active certification with the Council for Interior Design Qualifications and modifies the definitions of non-structural or non-seismic as those definitions related to interior designers.

Currently, the Colorado laws that permit reciprocal credentialing for certain professions and occupations in other states are found in the laws specific to each profession or occupation. **House Bill 20-1326** creates the Occupational Credential Portability Program that centralizes this reciprocity language into one area in the law. In addition, the bill modifies the existing credential exemption for military spouses and clarifies that a military spouse duly credentialed in another state is entitled to a temporary, three year credential in Colorado at no cost.

Current Colorado law requires physician assistants to maintain professional liability insurance. **House Bill 20-1041** repeals that requirement and instead requires physician assistants who have practiced for at least three years to carry the same professional liability insurance as physicians. To meet this requirement, physician assistants must maintain professional liability coverage of at least \$1 million per incident and \$3 million per year. The bill authorizes the Colorado Medical Board to exempt physician assistants from the financial responsibility requirements, or lessen

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the requirements, to the same extent permitted for physicians.

Sunset Review Bills

The General Assembly passed several bills related to the sunset hearing process that continue regulation of certain health professions.

- *House Bill 20-1183* continues the regulation of certified nurse aides until September 1, 2027.
- *House Bill 20-1216* continues the regulation of nurses via the State Board of Nursing until September 1, 2027.
- *House Bill 20-1210* continues the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners and the regulation of chiropractors until September 1, 2029.
- *House Bill 20-1218* and *House Bill 20-1219* continue the regulation of hearing aid providers and audiologists respectively for 11 years, until September 1, 2031.
- *House Bill 20-1206*, continues the regulation of mental health professionals through September 1, 2029;
- *House Bill 20-1212*, continues the regulation of naturopathic doctors through September 1, 2029; and
- *House Bill 20-1230*, continues the licensing of occupational therapists and occupational therapist assistants until September 1, 2030.

Colorado has required private investigators to be licensed to operate in the state since 2011. *House Bill 20-1207* would have continued the regulation of private investigators for five years. The Governor vetoed the bill.

In 2016, DORA began regulating fantasy sports businesses. Contest operators with more than 7,500 players in Colorado must be licensed and smaller contest operators must be registered with the state. *House Bill 20-1286* continues the regulation of fantasy sports contest operators, permits fantasy contests related to college

sports, and transfers regulatory authority from DORA to the Division of Gaming within the Department of Revenue. The bill requires small contest operators to complete independent annual audits and submit the results of those audits to the division, which is already required of large contest operators.