



Professions and Occupations

During the 2019 legislative session, the General Assembly considered several bills regulating professions and occupations including legislation addressing registered athletic trainers, genetic counselors, and sign language interpreters. New laws expand and clarify licensure requirements for plumbers, barbers and cosmetologists, emergency medical technicians, and motor vehicle and powersport vehicle wholesalers, as well as recodify regulation of community association managers. Finally, the General Assembly continued regulation of certified public accountants and electricians until 2030 and 2032, respectively.

Professional Licensure and Regulation

In 2008, the Colorado General Assembly established the Uniform Athlete Agents Act in law, requiring that agents who represent athletes in the state be regulated by the Division of Professions and Occupations in the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA). The regulatory requirements were terminated in 2010, although criminal and civil penalties associated with regulation remained in law. *Senate Bill 19-099* would have enacted a new Revised Uniform Athlete Agents Act establishing requirements for registration of athlete agents, clarifying when registration may be declined, suspended, or revoked, and specifying prohibited conduct. The bill listed requirements for contracts between athletes and agents. This bill was vetoed by the Governor.

Beginning March 30, 2020, pharmacy technicians practicing in Colorado will be required to obtain a certification from the State Board of Pharmacy. Under *House Bill 19-1242*, applicants must provide proof of certification by a board-approved, nationally recognized organization that certifies pharmacy technicians and must submit to a criminal background check. Certified technicians must meet continuing education requirements from national accredited organizations to renew their certification.

House Bill 19-1083 changes the term used to describe the regulation of athletic trainers from “registration” to “licensure.” Licensing programs typically involve the completion of a prescribed education program and the passage of a competency examination. Under current law, athletic trainers must graduate with a baccalaureate degree, complete an accredited athletic training program, and pass a competency exam.

Similarly, *Senate Bill 19-133* would have required that all genetic counselors in the state be licensed by June 1, 2020. The bill, vetoed by the Governor, would have required that applicants be certified by an approved national genetic counselor organization and set forth an application and renewal process, a scope of practice, designated rulemaking authority, and identified disciplinary procedures for licensure.

Professions and Occupations (Cont'd.)

Under current law, anyone who claims to be a sign language interpreter must hold a valid certification issued by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. *House Bill 19-1069* expands the certification requirements to include “translator” and “certified translator.” The bill further allows the Colorado Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind to approve certifications for sign language interpreters.

House Bill 19-1086 modifies renewal and reinstatement requirements for plumber licenses. In addition, the bill requires any plumbing inspection performed by the state, a local government, or qualified state institution of higher education to include a review of plumbers’ and apprentices’ compliance with state plumbing laws.

The Division of Professions and Occupations in DORA regulates barbers, cosmetologists, hairstylists, estheticians, and nail technicians in Colorado. Each profession requires a particular amount of instructional time for licensure. *House Bill 19-1290* allows applicants for these licenses to apply work experience obtained in a foreign country toward meeting the required number of instruction hours.

Emergency medical service (EMS) providers are certified by the Department of Public Health and Environment. *Senate Bill 19-242* creates an EMS provider license for an applicant who completes a health-related four-year baccalaureate degree.

Under current law, a business must have a wholesaler’s license to sell motor vehicles or powersports vehicles to dealers of those products. *House Bill 19-1286* clarifies that only two people, who both must be owners or part owners of the business, may act as a wholesaler under the license.

Sunset Bills

During the 2019 legislative session, the General Assembly continued the regulation of certain industries that were subject to a sunset review. The sunset provision repeals all or part of a law after a specific date, unless the legislature affirmatively acts to extend it.

Senate Bill 19-224 continues the regulation of medical and retail marijuana, including new and existing licensure for marijuana-related professions, through September 1, 2028.

Three sunset bills continued the licensing of certain health professionals. *Senate Bill 19-145* continues the licensing of dialysis treatment clinics and, as part of that licensure, requires clinics to employ dialysis technicians who are credentialed via a national credentialing program through September 1, 2026. *Senate Bill 19-153* continues the licensing of podiatrists through September 1, 2026. *Senate Bill 19-154* continues the licensing of psychiatric technicians via the State Board of Nursing through September 1, 2034.

Three bills continued the regulation of licensed workers. *Senate Bill 19-155* continues the licensing of certified public accountants and accounting firms through September 1, 2030. *Senate Bill 19-156* continues the licensing of electricians and electrical contractors through September 1, 2032. *Senate Bill 19-160* continues the registration of river guides through the river outfitter license program through September 1, 2028.

In 2018, the Community Association Management Practice Act, which regulates and licenses community association managers and management companies, was allowed to sunset and is scheduled to end on July 1, 2019. *House Bill 19-1212*, which was vetoed by the Governor, recreated the act. Among other things, the bill would have created a stakeholder process to gather information, provide feedback and make recommendations to DORA regarding issues related to program administration.