

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 58th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB 1981
Version:	Committee Substitute
Request Number:	7727
Author:	Rep. Lepak
Date:	3/9/2021
Impact:	Minimal

Research Analysis

HB 1981 creates the Universal State and Military Equivalence Licensing Recognition Act. The measure implements recognition of professional and occupational licensure for applicants moving to and residing in Oklahoma. A person moving to Oklahoma would be able to apply for licensing or certification for an occupation with a similar scope of practice, and the applicant supplies verifiable proof of physical residency in the state or is married to and accompanying an active duty member of the Armed Forces to an official permanent change of station to a military installation located in the state.

The Oklahoma regulatory entity would apply all similar and verifiable work experience in the manner most favorable to the applicant. Certain examination requirements and fees would still apply to the applicant. The applicant must also demonstrate that they are free of any complaint, investigation, suspension, revocation or discipline by any other regulatory entity or jurisdiction for unprofessional conduct.

The act does not apply to requirements for a criminal background check or criteria for a license or certification established by a separate interstate compact or reciprocal agreement.

Prepared By: Sean Webster

Fiscal Analysis

While there will be some fiscal impact from HB 1981, the extent of which is hard to determine at this time as there are 46 regulating entities that deal with licensing professionals and over 200 different types of licenses between the entities. First, getting the reporting requirements to the Department of Labor may take additional employees for these entities. Second, the new process for licensing may require these entities to upgrade software and may require the time and resources to set up and establish new processes, forms, and ways to verify information with other states. Many of these regulating entities though are nonappropriated.

The Department of Labor does know it will take some additional staff time to gather and synthesize the information from the 45 other regulating entities and put the information into the report, but it does believe the work can be absorbed by its current workforce.

Therefore, while the full size and scope of the fiscal impact on regulating entities is unknown, it is known there will be one. But as many of the entities are nonappropriated, and the Department of Labor believes it can absorb the new workload with current staff, it appears that any fiscal impact for the State will be minimal.

Prepared By: Mariah Searock

Other Considerations

None.

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