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**HOUSE BILL 1360**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives McClintock, Walen, Corry, Cheney, Waters, Barnard, Ybarra, and Couture

Read first time 01/16/23. Referred to Committee on Consumer Protection & Business.

1 AN ACT Relating to alternative licensing standards of  
2 professional licenses; adding a new section to chapter 43.24 RCW;  
3 adding a new chapter to Title 18 RCW; creating a new section; and  
4 providing an effective date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that there are  
7 many ways to gain demonstrated competency of skills in a profession.  
8 Furthermore, conditions such as educational requirements, course  
9 fees, and training hours, which an individual must fulfill before  
10 receiving a professional license to practice in a profession, create  
11 unnecessary barriers to an individual's right to employment if the  
12 individual can demonstrate full competency of the skills required of  
13 that profession.

14 (2) The legislature also finds that such redundant requirements  
15 are likely to discriminate against people of color, low-income  
16 individuals, and trained or untrained immigrant populations, who may  
17 possess the ability to excel in a profession but lack the ability to  
18 readily fulfill the professional licensing requirements to practice.

19 (3) It is therefore the intent of the legislature to authorize  
20 the Washington state department of licensing, after consulting with  
21 relevant trade groups, to develop a competency-based assessment which

1 allows individuals to demonstrate proficiency of the knowledge and  
2 skills otherwise required by a professional licensing examination.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.24  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) The department of licensing may issue a professional license,  
6 without regard to other requirements, to an applicant if the  
7 applicant meets all competency-based licensing requirements for a  
8 specific professional license issued by the department.

9 (2) For the purposes of this section:

10 (a) (i) "Competency-based licensing requirement" means a practical  
11 assessment of knowledge and skills that clearly demonstrate a person  
12 is prepared to engage in a profession regulated by the department,  
13 and which the director of the department of licensing determines is  
14 at least as effective as examination-based professional licensing  
15 requirements at demonstrating proficiency and protecting the health  
16 and safety of the public.

17 (ii) "Competency-based licensing requirement" may include, but is  
18 not limited to, any combination of training, experience, testing, or  
19 observation.

20 (b) "Professional license" means a license, certificate,  
21 registration, permit, or other form of authorization required by law  
22 or a state agency rule that must be obtained by an individual to  
23 engage in a profession which is regulated by the department of  
24 licensing.

25 (3) This section does not apply when there is a reciprocity  
26 licensing agreement with a national organization in place to  
27 facilitate reciprocal professional licensing of an individual  
28 licensed in another state.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The department of licensing may issue  
30 a professional license, without regard to other requirements, to an  
31 applicant if the applicant meets all competency-based licensing  
32 requirements for a specific professional license issued by the  
33 department.

34 (2) For the purposes of this section:

35 (a) (i) "Competency-based licensing requirement" means a practical  
36 assessment of knowledge and skills that clearly demonstrate a person  
37 is prepared to engage in a profession regulated by the department,  
38 and which the director of the department of licensing determines is

1 at least as effective as examination-based professional licensing  
2 requirements at demonstrating proficiency and protecting the health  
3 and safety of the public.

4 (ii) "Competency-based licensing requirement" may include, but is  
5 not limited to, any combination of training, experience, testing, or  
6 observation.

7 (b) "Professional license" means a license, certificate,  
8 registration, permit, or other form of authorization required by law  
9 or a state agency rule that must be obtained by an individual to  
10 engage in a profession which is regulated by the department of  
11 licensing.

12 (3) This section does not apply when there is a reciprocity  
13 licensing agreement with a national organization in place to  
14 facilitate reciprocal professional licensing of an individual  
15 licensed in another state.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Section 3 of this act constitutes a new  
17 chapter in Title 18 RCW.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act takes effect January 1, 2024.

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