



PROFESSIONAL
CERTIFICATION
COALITION

February 21, 2023

Sen. Kevin Cook, *Chair*
Senate Commerce & Human Resources
Committee
kcook@senate.idaho.gov

Sen. Brian Lenney, *Vice Chair*
Senate Commerce & Human Resources
Committee
BLenney@senate.idaho.gov

Re: H. 74

Dear Senators Cook and Lenney:

The Professional Certification Coalition (PCC) writes to urge amendments to H. 74 to ensure protections for the public and certification organizations that rely on licensure decisions.

The PCC is a nonprofit association formed to address legislation that affects professional certification programs, those who hold private certification credentials, and the many constituencies that rely on professional certification. The PCC's organizational members include non-governmental professional certification organizations, professional societies, and service providers. The PCC's members reflect a wide spectrum of professions, including health care, engineering, financial services, and information technology, among many others. Our founding organizations – the American Society of Association Executives (the leading organization for association management) and the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (the leading developer of accreditation standards for professional certification programs) – govern the PCC.

The PCC supports the goals of H. 74 to expand opportunities for those with criminal conviction histories and to reduce unnecessary barriers for licensed professionals who move to a new state.

However, we believe amendments to the bill are needed for two reasons:

(1) it is critical that licensing boards be able to consider relevant underlying facts relating to an applicant's past conduct to determine an applicant's fitness to practice a profession with the state's endorsement, and

(2) not all state-specific requirements are unwarranted and not all privately issued credentials or work experience can assure competency or qualifications equivalent to Idaho's licensing laws.

The PCC urges the legislature to amend H. 74 as necessary to enable licensing boards to protect the public if an unqualified or unethical individual seeks licensure. The attached [Statement of Principles](#) addresses key considerations for license mobility legislation. In accordance with those principles, the PCC proposes the following amendments:

- **Strike the amendment to Section 67-9409(4) which prohibits a licensing authority from establishing a jurisprudence examination.** Various Idaho professions other than attorneys and counselors currently require a jurisprudential exam for licensure. Whether

to require such an exam is best determined by the legislature in profession-specific amendments to current law, rather than broad brush provisions.

- Amend Section 67-9409(1)(b) to read “Demonstrates competency in the profession or occupation **and completion of substantially equivalent or more stringent educational, training, examination, credential, and experience requirements** through methods determined by the licensing board or commission.”
- Amend Section 67-9409(6) to read “A licensing authority **shall** compare the authorized scope of practice in the state, or states, where the applicant currently holds licensure to the authorized scope of practice in Idaho.”
- Amend Section 67-9414(1)(a) to read “Has at least four (4) years of work experience in a profession or occupation in another state, district, or territory of the United States, or in the military, where a license to practice such profession or occupation was not required **and demonstrates at least substantially equivalent educational, training, examination, credential, and experience as are required of Idaho licensees in the occupation, as determined by the licensing authority.**”
- Add to the list of considerations in Section 67-9411(1) “**Whether the applicant poses an unacceptable risk to the people with whom the applicant would interact in the conduct of the profession or occupation applied for.**”
- Add a safe harbor provision: “**Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a private certification organization to grant or deny private certification to any individual, nor alter or impair any requirement in a licensure statute or regulation for an individual to hold current private certification as a condition of licensure or renewal of licensure.**”

Private certification organizations in regulated professions rely on licensing boards to exercise their authority to deny licenses to individuals who have engaged in conduct that casts serious doubt on their fitness to practice the profession or indicates that the individual poses an unacceptable risk to the people the applicant would interact with. Most private certification organizations also rely on agency determinations in their own eligibility and ethics code enforcement. Withholding criminal conviction history from licensing boards therefore also has downstream effects on the information available to private certification organizations.

Further, reciprocity bills directly affect PCC members that credential professionals in regulated occupations, such as health care. In many of these occupations, licensure statutes and regulations make certification by recognized private certification organizations a condition of licensure. If, due to variations in licensing laws, alternative pathways to licensure allow unqualified or unfit individuals to practice, the public’s trust in certified professionals and their regulated professions could be irreparably damaged, especially for occupations in which the public conflates certification status with licensure.

Even PCC members that issue certifications to individuals in fields that do not require licensure have an interest in this issue. Certification organizations – and professional societies that

represent individuals who hold certification credentials – rely on licensing agencies to protect the public. If licensure laws create loopholes that weaken how state licensing agencies enforce such standards, this is a matter of great concern to the certification community.

Thank you for your attention to these issues and consideration of the PCC's views.

Sincerely,



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AABC Commissioning Group
ABRET Neurodiagnostic
Credentialing & Accreditation
(ABRET)
ABSA International: the
Association for Biosafety and
Biosecurity (ABSA)
Academy for Certification of
Vision Rehabilitation &
Education Professionals
(ACVREP)
American Association of
Professional Landmen (AAPL)
American Board for
Certification in Orthotics,
Prosthetics and Pedorthics
(ABCOP)
American Board of Certification
for Gastroenterology Nurses
(ABCGN)
American Board of Foot and
Ankle Surgery (ABFAS)
American Board of Medical
Specialties (ABMS)
American Board of
Neuroscience Nursing (ABNN)
American Board of Nursing
Specialties (ABNS)
American Industrial Hygiene
Association (AIHA)
American Legal Nurse
Consultant Certification Board
(ALNCCB)
American Medical Certification
Association (AMCA)
American Nurses Credentialing
Center (ANCC)
American Payroll Association
(APA)
American Society of
Association Executives (ASAE)

American Society of Civil
Engineers (ASCE)
American Speech-Language-
Hearing Association (ASHA)
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Services Association (ATSSA)
American Translators
Association (ATA)
Arcitura Education, Inc.
Association for Financial
Counseling & Planning
Education (AFCPE)
Association of Surgical
Technologists (AST)
Behavior Analyst Certification
Board (BACB)
Board of
Certification/Accreditation
(BOC)
Board of Certified Safety
Professionals (BCSP)
Board of Pharmacy Specialties
(BPS)
Building Commissioning
Certification Board (BCCB)
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Certification Board for Music
Therapists (CBMT)
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Control and Epidemiology
(CBIC)
Certification Council for
Professional Dog Trainers
(CCPDT)
Certified Financial Planner
Board of Standards (CFP)
Certified Fund Raising
Executive International (CFRE)
CertiProf, LLC

Chartered Financial Analyst
Institute (CFA)
Commission for Case Manager
Certification (CCMC)
Commission on Nurse
Certification (CNC)
Community Association
Institute (CAI)
Computing Technology Industry
Association (CompTIA)
Construction Management
Association of America
(CMAA)
Council for Interior Design
Qualification (CIDQ)
Council of Engineering and
Scientific Specialty Boards
(CESB)
Dental Assisting National Board
(DANB)
Diving Equipment and
Marketing Association (DEMA)
Entertainment Services and
Technology Association (ESTA)
ETA International
Financial Planning Association
(FPA)
Healthcare Sterile Processing
Association (HSPA)
Hearth, Patio, & Barbecue
Education Foundation (HPBA)
Heuristic Solutions
Hospice and Palliative
Credentialing Center (HPCC)
Institute for Credentialing
Excellence (ICE)
Institute of Hazardous Materials
Management (IHMM)
Institute of Inspection Cleaning
and Restoration Certification
(IICRC)

International Coach Federation (ICF)

International Information System Security Certification Consortium (ISC²)

Investments & Wealth Institute (IWI)

Irrigation Association

IT Certification Council (ITCC)

Laborers' International Union of North America Training & Education Fund (LIUNA)

Medical-Surgical Nursing Certification Board (MSNCB)

National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA)

National Association of Personal Financial Advisors (NAPFA)

National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification, Inc. (NATA/BOC)

National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA)

National Board of Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences (NBC-HIS)

National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT)

National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA)

National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM)

National Certification Corporation (NCC)

National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)

National Commission for Health Education Credentialing (NCHEC)

National Council on Family Relations (NCFR)

National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA)

National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)

National Restaurant Association (NRA)

National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA)

National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE)

Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC)

Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC)

Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB)

Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB)

Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH)

PSI Services

Pearson Vue

QualityPro

Rehabilitation Nursing Certification Board (RNCB)

School Nutrition Association (SNA)

SeaCrest Consulting

Security Industry Association (SIA)

Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE)

Specialty Pharmacy Certification Board (SPCB) c/o National Association of Specialty Pharmacy Certification Board

Spray Polyurethane Foam Alliance (SPFA)

Towing and Recovery Association of America, Inc. (TRA)

National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE)