



January 31, 2024

Rep. Michael Weisgram, *Chair*  
House Commerce and Energy  
mike.weisgram@sdlegislature.gov

Rep. Carl Perry, *Vice Chair*  
House Commerce and Energy  
carl.perry@sdlegislature.gov

**Re: SB 57**

Dear Rep. Weisgram and Rep. Perry:

The Professional Certification Coalition (PCC)<sup>1</sup> writes regarding SB 57. We respectfully request amendments to ensure that licensing agencies can carry out their statutory responsibilities, which serve to protect the public and the certification organizations that rely on licensure decisions.

The PCC agrees that having a criminal record should not stigmatize or automatically disqualify an individual from an occupational license. Safeguarding these applicants against automatic disqualification from a license, however, does not require a shift to the other extreme: blocking licensing boards from holding applicants to the same conduct standards that apply to a current licensee. **Licensing boards must be able to make decisions about an applicant's fitness to practice the profession with the state's endorsement by holding applicants to the same standards as current licensees, and by protecting public health, safety, and welfare.**

A wide range of conduct that may result in criminal convictions can be relevant to decisions on whether to grant a license that places practitioners in a position of trust or gives them access to vulnerable individuals, even if the conduct does not directly bear on the profession's scope of practice. Even nonviolent and non-sex-offender crimes can merit a continuing disqualification from certain professions: for example, if a home health nurse has engaged in identity theft or embezzlement, the licensing board should be permitted to consider whether that applicant would still pose a risk to clients, even though the nature of the crime is not directly connected to nursing duties.

Because of its broad sweep – applying to licensing agencies across all regulated professions – SB 57 as currently drafted would prevent licensing boards from taking action based on information that was determined with due process to the applicant and relevant to licensing decisions. To address these concerns, the PCC proposes amendments in **Appendix A**.

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<sup>1</sup> The PCC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan 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.

Overly restricting licensing board decisions based on past conduct that appears in an applicant's criminal conviction history has downstream effects on the information available to private certification organizations. Most private certification organizations rely on agency determinations to enforce their eligibility and ethics codes, as they are non-governmental entities without the resources or legal authority to conduct full-fledged investigations, issue subpoenas, and hold trial-type proceedings.

Both the public and private certification organizations rely on licensing authorities to make informed decisions. Licensing boards must have authority to deny licenses to individuals who have engaged in conduct that casts serious doubt on their fitness to practice the profession or that indicates that the individual poses an unacceptable risk to the people to whom the applicant would interact in the conduct of the profession.

Thank you for your consideration of these amendments. Please feel free to reach out to us using the contact information identified below.

Sincerely,



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Legal Counsel to the PCC  
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Sen. David Wheeler, *Chair*  
Senate Commerce and Energy  
[David.Wheeler@sdlegislature.gov](mailto:David.Wheeler@sdlegislature.gov)

Sen. Arch Beal, *Vice Chair*  
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[Arch.Beal@sdlegislature.gov](mailto:Arch.Beal@sdlegislature.gov)

## APPENDIX A

- Add a definition of “directly relates” to Section 36-1C-1: **“‘Directly relates’ means if the circumstances of the offense and the nature of the profession or occupation would create an unreasonable risk to public safety, health, or welfare for an individual to practice the licensed profession, or if the underlying conduct resulting in the conviction would be grounds for disciplinary action against a current licensee.”**
- Add to the list of factors an agency or administrator must consider in Section 2, a new factor number (5): **“Whether the circumstances of the offense and the nature of the occupation would create an unreasonable risk to public safety, health, or welfare for an individual to practice the licensed profession or occupation.”**
- Add to Section 7: **“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.”**



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 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)  
American Traffic Safety  
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)  
Beingcert  
Board of  
Certification/Accreditation  
(BOC)  
Board of Certified Safety  
Professionals (BCSP)  
Board of Pharmacy Specialties  
(BPS)  
Building Commissioning  
Certification Board (BCCB)  
Building Industry Consulting  
Service International, Inc.  
(BICSI)  
Certification Board for Diabetes  
Care and Education (CBDCE)  
Certification Board for Music  
Therapists (CBMT)  
Certification Council for  
Professional Dog Trainers  
(CCPDT)  
Certified Financial Planner  
Board of Standards (CFP Board)  
Certified Fund Raising  
Executive International (CFRE)  
CertiProf, LLC  
Chartered Financial Analyst  
Institute (CFA Institute)

Commission for Case Manager  
Certification (CCMC)  
Commission on Nurse  
Certification (CNC)  
Community Association  
Institute (CAI)  
Construction Management  
Association of America  
(CMAA)  
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)  
Human Resource Certification  
Institute, Inc. (HRCI)  
Institute for Credentialing  
Excellence (ICE)  
Institute of Hazardous Materials  
Management (IHMM)  
International Coach Federation  
(ICF)  
International Information  
System Security Certification  
Consortium (ISC<sup>2</sup>)  
Investments & Wealth Institute  
(IWI)

Irrigation Association	National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)
IT Certification Council (ITCC)	National Restaurant Association (NRA)
Laborers' International Union of North America Training & Education Fund (LIUNA)	National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA)
Medical-Surgical Nursing Certification Board (MSNCB)	National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE)
National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA)	Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC)
National Association of Personal Financial Advisors (NAPFA)	Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC)
National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification, Inc. (NATA/BOC)	Pearson Vue
National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA)	Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB)
National Board of Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences (NBC-HIS)	Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB)
National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT)	Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH)
National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE)	PSI Services
National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA)	QualityPro
National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM)	Rehabilitation Nursing Certification Board (RNCB)
National Certification Corporation (NCC)	School Nutrition Association (SNA)
National Commission for Health Education Credentialing (NCHEC)	SeaCrest Consulting
National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)	Security Industry Association (SIA)
National Council on Family Relations (NCFR)	Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE)
National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA)	Specialty Pharmacy Certification Board (SPCB)
	Spray Polyurethane Foam Alliance (SPFA)
	Towing and Recovery Association of America, Inc. (TRA)