



PROFESSIONAL
CERTIFICATION
COALITION

April 28, 2025

Senator Scott Kawasaki, *Chair*
Senate State Affairs Committee
Senator.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov

Senator Jesse Bjorkman, *Vice Chair*
Senate State Affairs Committee
Senator.Jesse.Bjorkman@akleg.gov

Re: Senate Bill 145

Dear Senators Kawasaki and Bjorkman:

The Professional Certification Coalition (PCC)¹ writes regarding SB 145. The PCC respectfully requests an amendment to ensure that out-of-state applicants for licensure are not held to materially lower standards than Alaska expects of its own residents. Consumers will not be aware that the licensed individual they are hiring may not have the qualifications that an Alaska license ordinarily requires, so ensuring that at least baseline standards are met is essential.

The PCC supports reducing unnecessary barriers for licensed professionals who move to a new state. However, as noted in the attached [Statement of Principles](#), not all state-specific requirements are unwarranted red tape: substantive state-specific licensing requirements protect the public from unqualified or unethical practitioners and uphold the integrity of licensed professions as a whole. In adopting specific qualification requirements for each licensed occupation, Alaska has balanced protection of the public with the interests of lowering costs, promoting market competition, and reducing barriers to entry to that occupation. That balance is best achieved by applying consistent standards for earning a license in each profession, and by ensuring that any changes to substantive licensing requirements apply to all who practice the profession in Alaska, not just those seeking to relocate from a different state.

For certain occupations, Alaska requires applicants to earn a private professional certification to demonstrate that they have achieved the core knowledge, skills, and competencies for that occupation. SB 145 would permit unqualified individuals to apply for a license and hold themselves out as qualified, despite not having demonstrated the skills and knowledge required to earn the requisite private certification. This puts Alaska residents at potential risk. A history of employment alone does not prove the competency and skill levels expected of licensed professionals in Alaska, and not all private certifications are comparable to each other or equivalent to those that Alaska residents are required to hold as a condition of licensure. We

¹ 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. Our 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.

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therefore urge that SB 145 be amended to require that applicants hold the private certification that Alaska licensing laws otherwise require for an occupation.

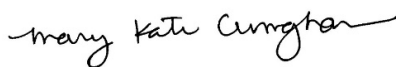
Specifically, the PCC urges the following amendment:

“Notwithstanding any other provision in this section, if the occupational licensing rules of the board require applicants to hold a current and valid private certification, the board must require the applicant who seeks a license under the provisions of this section to hold that private certification before issuing a license under this section. Where a licensing law specifies a private certification or other substantive qualifications as alternative eligibility standards for a license, an applicant who seeks a license under the provisions of this section must either hold that current and valid private certification or demonstrate qualifications at least equivalent to the alternative eligibility standards required in this state for practice of that lawful occupation.”

This bill directly affects protections for the public and PCC members that confer credentials to professionals in occupations in which certification is a condition of licensure. **If, due to variations in licensing laws, SB 145 allows unqualified or unfit individuals to practice, the public’s trust in certified professionals and their regulated professions will be irreparably damaged, especially for occupations in which the public associates an individual’s status as a certified professional with licensure.**

Thank you for your attention to these issues and consideration of the PCC’s views. Please feel free to contact us using the information below to discuss this further.

Sincerely,



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