



2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE WATCHLIST

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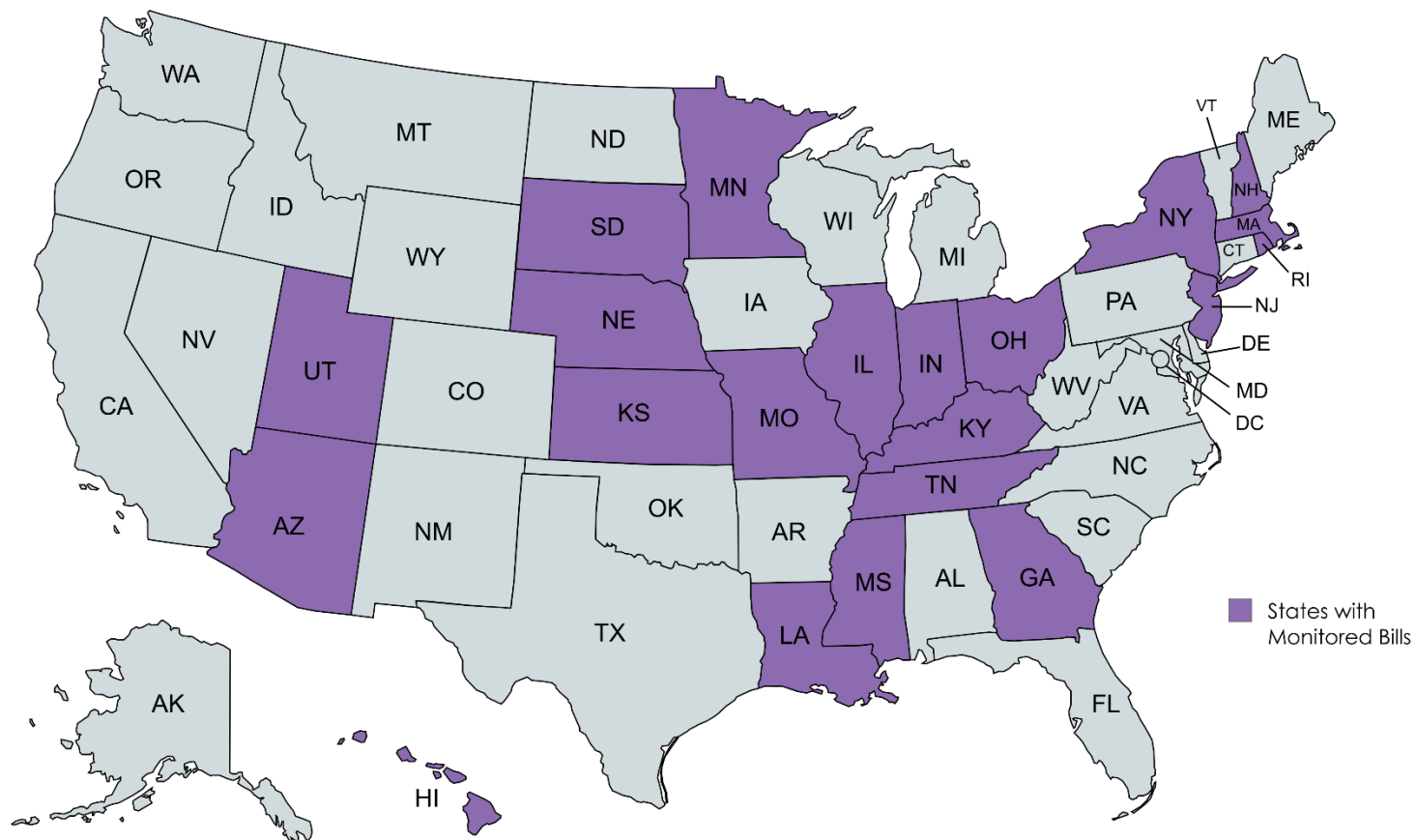


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Total Bills Monitored	Total States with Monitored Bills	Total Returning Citizens Bills	Total Review and Repeal	Total Consumer Choice Bills	Total Miscellaneous Bills	Total Commercial Cheating Bills	Total 529 Plan Bills	Total First Amendment Bills	Total Alt. Pathways Bills
47	21	9	6	0	3	2	10	3	13

KEY	
	High priority
CARRYOVER	Carried over from the 2025 legislative session
REPEAT	Reintroduced bill from a previous legislative session
NEW	Bill summarized for the first time in current version of watchlist
Dead	
Under consideration in first chamber	
Passed first chamber and under consideration in second	
Awaiting governor's signature	
Enacted	

Arizona	Session Dates	Crossover Deadline	Carryover to 2027
	Jan. 12, 2026 – Apr. 8, 2026	Feb. 2, 2026	No

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
AZ	HB 2294	1/20/2026	Cesar Aguilar (D)	House read second time	Failed Sine Die	Amend	Medium
Bill Summary		• Category: Alt. Pathways • Requires every occupational regulating authority to establish criteria that allow individuals to obtain licenses, certificates, or registrations through apprenticeship programs approved by the U.S. Department of Labor or Arizona's Department of Economic Security. • Provides that the apprenticeship criteria must allow an applicant to complete training either at a state-licensed school or through training with a person approved by the Department of Economic Security who holds the applicable license, certificate, or registration. • Requires that if an occupation requires passing an examination for licensure, certification, or registration, the applicant must pass that examination, and the passing score must not discriminate between applicants from apprenticeship programs and applicants from vocational or trade schools. • Provides that an occupational regulating authority may adopt rules to implement these apprenticeship provisions.					
Comments and Proposed Changes		• Add a new provision, "Notwithstanding any other provision in this section, if the occupational licensing rules of the regulating authority require applicants to hold a current and valid private certification, the regulating authority 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."					

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
AZ	HB 2477	1/21/2026	David Livingston (R)	Transmit to Governor (6/12/2026)	Awaiting Signature	Monitor	N/A
Bill Summary		• Category: 529 Plans • Revises statutory definitions to conform to federal law by replacing Arizona-specific language with a cross-reference providing that “member of the family” and “qualified higher education expenses” have the same meaning prescribed in Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code. • Increases the allowable aggregate withdrawal for K–12 tuition expenses from \$10,000 to not more than \$20,000 per designated beneficiary and clarifies that student loan repayment withdrawals remain capped at \$10,000 in the aggregate per beneficiary (including siblings). • Clarifies plan participation requirements by specifying that account owners shall make payments to participate in the plan pursuant to tuition savings agreements and makes conforming and technical changes to application and reporting provisions • Removes the December 31, 2025 sunset and authorizes ongoing transfers of all or a portion of an account to an Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) account, provided the designated beneficiary (or a qualifying family member) is the beneficiary of the transferee account. • Authorizes rollovers of all or a portion of an AZ529 account to a Roth individual retirement account for the designated beneficiary, subject to federal requirements, including a 15-year account holding period, a five-year seasoning requirement for contributions, annual Roth IRA contribution limits, and a lifetime transfer cap of \$35,000.					
Comments and Proposed Changes		• The PCC supports state efforts to broaden 529 coverage as the Department of the Treasury works toward full implementation of the 529 expansion under the OBBBA.					

Georgia	Session Dates	Crossover Deadline	Carryover to 2027
	Jan. 12, 2026 – Apr. 2, 2026	Mar. 6, 2026	No

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
GA	SB 207	2/19/2026	Brian Strickland (R)	Signed by Governor (5/12/2026)	Enacted	Amend	Medium
Bill Summary		• Category: Returning Citizens • Requires that applicants be afforded a hearing before a professional licensing board prior to denial of a license based on the applicant's criminal record. • Revises Code Section 43-1-19 to provide that a license may be denied or revoked only if a felony or covered misdemeanor directly relates to the duties of the occupation, and clarifies and expands the application of the "direct relationship" standard. • Replaces references to "crime involving moral turpitude" with "covered misdemeanor." Defines "covered misdemeanor" to include certain misdemeanor convictions within five years of application and specified offenses under Georgia law. • Requires licensing boards to consider evidence of rehabilitation and mitigating factors when evaluating criminal history, including completion of sentence, participation in treatment programs, employment history, education, character references, and other relevant evidence submitted by the applicant. • Revises provisions governing contested cases to provide that certain licensing decisions (including denial of reinstatement or previously denied licenses) are not considered contested cases, while separately establishing hearing rights for applicants denied based on criminal records.					
Comments and Proposed Changes		• Add to the list of considerations in Section 1-4(2) a new factor (F.): "Whether the circumstances of the offense and the nature of the occupation would create an unreasonable risk to public safety, health, or welfare for the applicant to practice the licensed profession or occupation." • Add a safe harbor provision in stating: "Nothing in the chapter shall be construed to require a private certification organization to grant or deny private certification to any individual, nor alter 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."					

Hawaii	Session Dates	Crossover Deadline	Carryover to 2027
	Jan. 21, 2026 – May 8, 2026	Mar. 12, 2026	No

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
HI	SB 418 *CARRYOVER*	01/15/2025	Angus McKelvey (D) Stanley Chang (D) Kurt Fevella (R) Troy Hashimoto (D) Karol Rhoads (D) Joy San Buenaventura (D)	Pending Introduction (1/14/2026)	Failed Sine Die	Amend	Medium
Bill Summary		• Category: Review and Repeal • Requires a regulatory review of all administrative rules adopted by state agencies with the goal of: ○ (1) identifying and repealing rules that are no longer necessary, outdated, or duplicative; ○ (2) identifying rules that are not supported by statutory authority; ○ (3) simplifying and streamlining rules to reduce regulatory burdens; and ○ (4) improving clarity and accessibility of administration rules. • Requires each state agency to submit an annual report summarizing its findings to the department of the attorney general. Based on these findings, the department of the attorney general shall compile an annual regulatory review summarizing findings and recommendations for all state agencies, which will be reported to the legislature at least twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session. • As part of the review process, state agencies must seek input from stakeholders and the public by establishing a list of rules under review on the agency's website, accepting public comment and hosting public hearings. • Requires the department of attorney general to adopt rules to implement the regulatory review program.					
Comments and Proposed Changes		• On its face, this bill is not as concerning as other Review and Repeal bills, first because it only calls for a report of recommendations, and second because it broadly applies to <i>all</i> administrative rules adopted by state agencies (rather than those related to occupational licenses and certification). Additionally, the aim of the bill is to overhaul the “rules and fees that may not be legally valid anymore since the authority to establish these rules no longer exists or is irrelevant.”					

	• That said, the bill provides for the adoption of rules to implement the program, which may be more narrowly tailored to licensure and certification. Additionally, the introduction to the bill references Idaho's extreme review and repeal law. • Add a provision: "Notwithstanding any other provision in this Act, no statute authorizing an occupational regulatory program shall be repealed if the Legislature does not engage in systemic review of the program prior to scheduled repeal date in this Act; in such cases, the scheduled repeal date shall be postponed to July 1st of the following calendar year."
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Illinois	Session Dates	Crossover Deadline	Carryover to 2027
	Jan. 14, 2025 – May 31, 2026	Apr. 17, 2026	No

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
IL	HB 4920	2/03/2026	Maurice A. West, II (D)	Referred to Rules Committee (2/06/2026)	In House	Amend	Medium
Bill Summary		• Category: Alt. Pathways • Creates the Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses Act, requiring Illinois licensing boards to issue an occupational license or government certification to individuals licensed in another state if specified conditions are met. • Requires applicants to have held a substantially similar out-of-state license for at least one year, be in good standing, meet applicable education, training, or examination requirements, and have no disqualifying criminal history or pending disciplinary actions. • Requires licensing boards to issue a license based on relevant work experience (at least 3 years) in another state that does not license the occupation, if the applicant otherwise meets background and eligibility requirements. • Allows licensing boards to require applicants to pass a state-specific jurisprudence examination related to Illinois laws governing the occupation. • Requires boards to issue a written decision within 30 days of receiving a complete application and permits applicants to appeal denials or determinations to a court. • Provides that individuals licensed under the Act are subject to Illinois laws and regulatory authority, and allows boards to charge application fees (up to \$100). • Authorizes the Governor, during a declared emergency, to temporarily recognize out-of-state licenses and expand scope of practice for licensees operating in Illinois.					
Comments and Proposed Changes		• Add a safe harbor provision in stating: “Nothing in the chapter shall be construed to require a private certification organization to grant or deny private certification to any individual, nor alter 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.”					

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
IL	SB 3666	2/03/2026	Christopher Belt (D)	Re-referred to Assignments Committee (4/17/2026)	In Senate	Amend	Medium
IL	HB 4762	2/02/2026	Theresa Mah (D)	Governor Approved (6/10/2026)	Enacted	Amend	Medium
Bill Summary		• Category: Returning Citizens • Prohibits denial of licensure based solely on prior criminal convictions or lack of “good moral character,” requiring a direct relationship between the offense and the license or a demonstrated public safety risk, and mandating consideration of rehabilitation and mitigating factors. • Expands requirements for individualized review of applicants with criminal histories, including consideration of rehabilitation evidence, time elapsed, and relevance of the offense to the licensed occupation, and requires detailed written explanations for denials. • Limits the use of certain criminal records in licensing decisions (e.g., arrests not resulting in conviction, sealed/expunged records, juvenile records) and restricts inquiry into such information. • Provides that individuals with certificates of relief from disabilities cannot be denied licensure solely due to prior convictions, subject to narrow exceptions, and establishes a presumption of rehabilitation. • Requires licensing agencies to publish disqualifying criminal offenses and improves transparency through reporting on licensing decisions involving applicants with criminal convictions. • Allows incarcerated individuals to apply for and obtain professional licenses, prohibiting automatic delays or denials based on incarceration status if otherwise qualified. • Expands opportunities to seal or make confidential certain disciplinary records and clarifies that sealed licensure records are not reportable under credentialing data laws. • Revises health care licensing provisions, including automatic revocation or suspension for certain serious offenses, with a pathway for reinstatement in limited circumstances and enhanced procedural requirements.					
Comments and Proposed Changes		• Amend Sec. 5-5-5. (i)(2) to read “the issuance of the license would involve an unreasonable risk to public safety, the practice of the applicable profession, or public welfare.”					

	Add a safe harbor provision in stating: “Nothing in the chapter shall be construed to require a private certification organization to grant or deny private certification to any individual, nor alter 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.”
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State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
IL	HB 4107	08/26/2025	Tom Weber (R)	Re-referred to Rules Committee (3/27/2026)	In House	Support	N/A
Bill Summary		Category: 529 Plans - Expands the State’s Section 529 program by renaming the “College Savings Pool” to the “College, Secondary, and Elementary Education Savings Pool,” and expressly aligning it with Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code. - Expands the definition of “eligible educational institution” to include elementary and secondary public, private, and religious schools, in addition to higher education institutions. - Expands “qualified expenses” to include K–12 tuition expenses of up to \$10,000 per taxable year, consistent with federal Section 529 rules. - Continues to permit traditional Section 529 qualified expenses, including tuition, fees, books, supplies, room and board, apprenticeship program costs, and student loan repayment (subject to federal limits). - Allows rollovers of 529 funds to other permitted accounts, including: - other qualified tuition programs, - ABLE accounts, and - Roth IRAs (to the extent permitted under Section 529). - Provides that contributions to 529 accounts remain cash-only and subject to contribution limits necessary to cover qualified education expenses. - Clarifies that nonqualified withdrawals are subject to applicable restrictions and tax consequences, while preserving exceptions for death, disability, rollovers, and other federally permitted uses. - Provides that 529 account assets are generally protected from creditors, subject to limitations for certain recent contributions and fraudulent transfers.					

	- Creates/continues a State-administered 529-linked program providing automatic “seed” contributions (generally \$50) for eligible children, with conditions on claiming and use for qualified higher education expenses. - Provides a nonrefundable Illinois income tax credit (up to \$500 per employee) for employers making matching contributions to employees’ 529 accounts.
Comments and Proposed Changes	This bill expands qualified uses of 529 plans in Illinois. The PCC supports state efforts to broaden 529 coverage as the Department of the Treasury works toward full implementation of the 529 expansion under the OBBBA.

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
IL	SB 186	1/17/2026	Mike A. Porfirio (D) Paul Faraci (D)	Referred to Senate Assignments Committee (3/11/2026)	In Senate	Amend	Medium
Bill Summary		Category: Alt. Pathways - Establishes a temporary licensure pathway for military members, spouses, and veterans, allowing eligible individuals to practice in Illinois under an out-of-state professional license while completing State licensure requirements. - Creates a 3-year, non-renewable temporary permit, issued upon verification that the applicant holds a valid, unencumbered license in good standing from another state and meets residency and military status requirements. - Allows temporary permitholders to practice within the scope of their out-of-state license, provided they comply with all applicable Illinois laws, rules, and professional standards. - Requires permitholders to obtain full State licensure within the 3-year period, with failure to do so resulting in automatic termination of the temporary permit. - Excludes certain professions from eligibility, including those requiring emergency or public safety certifications unless specifically authorized by the relevant licensing board, and clarifies that the provision does not apply where interstate licensure compacts govern.					

	Authorizes the Department to adopt implementing rules to administer the temporary licensure program.
Comments and Proposed Changes	Add a new provision, “Notwithstanding any other provision in this Section, if the occupational licensing rules of the licensing 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.”

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
IL	HB 3462 	2/7/2025	Don Harmon (D) Emil Jones (D) Carol Ammons (D) Lisa Davis (D)	Rule 2-10 Third Reading Deadline Established As May 31, 2026 (5/22/2026)	In Senate (passed both chambers)	Amend	High
Bill Summary		Category: Returning Citizens Note: this bill was carried over from 2025 and is similar to IL SB 2347 – monitored on the 2025 watchlist – which went dormant when the legislative session ended. - Amends current law to require that the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation consider whether an applicant’s prior conviction is “directly related to the ability of the applicant to safely perform the duties, functions, and responsibilities of the position” instead of whether the prior conviction “will impair the ability of the applicant to engage in the practice...” - Defines “directly related” as “the employment position offers the opportunity for the same offense or a similar offense to occur and the circumstances leading to the conduct for which the person was convicted are likely to reoccur.” - Requires the Department to consider the following factors when evaluating whether a prior conviction is directly related to the ability of an applicant to safely perform the duties, functions, and responsibilities of the position: - The length of time since the prior conviction;					

	○ The number of prior convictions that appear on the conviction record; ○ The nature and severity of the prior conviction and its relationship to the safety and security of others; ○ The facts and circumstances surrounding the prior conviction; ○ The age of the applicant at the time of the prior conviction; and ○ Any evidence of rehabilitative efforts. • Adds to the current list of criminal history records that the Department shall not require applicants to report and shall not consider in connection with an application for licensure and registration and adds “or certification:” ○ Records of a nonviolent misdemeanor; ○ A conviction older than 3 years for which the applicant was not incarcerated or a conviction for which the applicant’s incarceration ended more than 3 years before the date of the Department’s evaluation of the applicant’s application, except for a felony conviction related to a criminal sexual act; criminal fraud or embezzlement; aggravated assault; aggravated robbery; aggravated abuse, neglect, or endangerment of a child or vulnerable adult; arson; carjacking; kidnapping; or manslaughter, homicide, or murder.
Comments and Proposed Changes	• Revise the definition of “directly related” to read “the employment position offers the opportunity for the same offense or a similar offense to occur and the circumstances leading to the conduct for which the person was convicted are likely to reoccur, and/or would be grounds for disciplinary action against a current licensee.” • Add to the list of factors the Department must consider in Sec. 2105-131(a-5) a new factor (7): “Whether the circumstances of the offense and the nature of the occupation would create an unreasonable risk to public safety, health, or welfare for the applicant to practice the licensed profession or occupation.” • 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.” • Remove the amended Sec. 2105-135(c)(5) and (6).

Indiana	Session Dates	Crossover Deadline	Carryover to 2027
	Dec. 1, 2025 – Feb. 27, 2026	Feb. 5, 2026	No

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
IN	HB 1366	1/8/2026	Carolyn B. Jackson (D)	First reading: referred to Committee on Ways and Means. (1/08/2026)	Failed Sine Die	Support	N/A
Bill Summary		• Category: 529 Plans • Creates a nonrefundable apprenticeship tax credit equal to \$2,500 per qualified apprentice employed for at least seven full months in a taxable year, beginning with taxable years after December 31, 2026. • Defines a “qualified apprenticeship” as an apprenticeship that is industry recognized, registered with the United States Department of Labor, or offered through or in conjunction with a program developed by the Department of Workforce Development, and requires certification of the position by the Department before the credit may be claimed. • Limits the credit to one apprentice per taxpayer per year, except that a taxpayer may claim the credit for up to six apprentices if at least half are foster youth transitioning to independent living, veterans, military spouses, or women. • Prohibits certification of an apprentice for credit purposes after four years of employment or the conclusion of the apprenticeship term (whichever occurs first), and disallows the credit if the individual was previously employed by the employer in another position. • Provides that the credit is nonrefundable and may not be carried back, but allows pass-through entity owners to claim their distributive share of the credit. • Requires certain occupational licensing boards (excluding specified professions such as health care practitioners, architects, engineers, CPAs, and veterinarians) to issue a license, certificate, registration, or permit to applicants licensed in Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, or Kentucky if the other state’s requirements are substantially equivalent or greater and the applicant meets specified conditions, including one year of licensure, good standing, no pending discipline, and payment of required fees.					

Comments and Proposed Changes	• This bill expands qualified uses of 529 plans in Indiana. The PCC supports state efforts to broaden 529 coverage as the Department of the Treasury works toward full implementation of the 529 expansion under the OBBBA.
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Kansas	Session Dates	Crossover Deadline	Carryover to 2027
	Jan. 12, 2026 – Apr. 10, 2026	Feb. 19, 2026	No

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
KS	HB 2430	01/12/2026	Adam Smith (R)	Died in Committee (4/10/2026)	Failed	Support	N/A
Bill Summary		• Category: 529 Plans • Allows individuals and corporations, beginning January 1, 2027, to open designated insurance savings accounts with financial institutions to pay or reimburse eligible property and casualty insurance expenses. • Defines eligible expenses to include premiums paid for certain property and casualty insurance and deductibles paid in connection with claims under those policies. • Limits annual contributions to \$6,000 for an individual, \$12,000 for married joint filers, and \$25,000 for corporations. Interest or income earned on excess contributions remains taxable. • Allows individuals and corporations to subtract qualifying contributions and account earnings from Kansas income, subject to the applicable contribution caps. • Requires withdrawals used for non-eligible purposes to be added back to Kansas income in the year withdrawn. For individuals, account funds may also be recaptured if the account holder dies without a surviving payable-on-death beneficiary. • Requires account holders to maintain documentation and annually report account information with their Kansas income tax return. Financial institutions are not required to track account usage, determine tax eligibility, or report account-specific information beyond what is otherwise required by law. • Authorizes the Kansas insurance commissioner to market the program to account holders and financial institutions.					
Comments and Proposed Changes		• This bill creates Kansas insurance savings accounts with state tax benefits for contributions and earnings used toward eligible property and casualty insurance expenses. The PCC supports state efforts to expand tax-advantaged savings tools that help individuals and businesses manage insurance costs, while ensuring clear rules for eligible expenses, recapture, and account administration.					

Kentucky	Session Dates	Crossover Deadline	Carryover to 2027
	Jan. 6, 2026 – Apr. 15, 2026	N/A	No

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
KY	SB 78 	1/13/2026	Donald Douglas (R)	To Health Services (S) (1/15/2026)	Failed Sine Die	Amend	High
Bill Summary		• Category: Miscellaneous • Prohibits insurers from requiring health care providers to be board certified as a condition of credentialing, participation, reimbursement, or enhanced reimbursement. • Incorporates the definition of health care provider in KRS 8 304.17A-005, including physicians, podiatrists, dentists, chiropractors, home medical services providers, advanced practice nurses, optometrists, pharmacists, and physician assistants, and any other occupation defined as a health care provider under applicable regulations, as well as psychologists. • Amends minimum professional qualification standards to require that credentialing criteria be objective, relevant, and reasonably related to the services provided, and expressly prohibits: ○ Exclusion based on geographic location or the treatment of high-risk populations; ○ Mandatory board certification requirements; and ○ Discrimination based solely on the type of professional license held. • Amends recredentialing requirements to require periodic reevaluation of participating providers, including review of performance patterns such as insured clinical outcomes, number of complaints, and malpractice actions. • Requires insurers offering managed care plans to: ○ Maintain a credentialing process with written policies and procedures governing provider review and approval; ○ Consult with appropriately qualified health care providers to establish minimum profession requirements;					

	○ Establish mechanisms for soliciting and acting upon applications from health care providers to become participating providers in the plan in a fair and systemic manner; and ○ Not use a participating health care provider beyond, or outside of, the provider's legally authorized scope of practice.
Comments and Proposed Changes	• This bill would affect not only physicians who may or may not hold specialty board certification but also a wide variety of health care professionals, including physician assistants, etc., who may be required to be board certified for initial licensure but are not required to maintain their certification for continued licensure. • Remove the amended subsection (3)(d)2. by deleting paragraph (3)(d)2.c., which prohibits requiring a health care provider to be board certified.

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
KY	HB 185	1/07/2026	T.J. Roberts (R) Matt Koch (R)	Signed by Governor (4/10/2026)	Enacted	Amend	Medium
Bill Summary		• Category: Returning Citizens • Establishes a process requiring hiring and licensing authorities that consider criminal background checks to allow individuals with criminal convictions to obtain a binding, pre-application determination of whether a conviction will disqualify them from public employment or an occupation requiring licensure, before the individual undertakes required education or training. • Requires authorities to afford applicants notice, an opportunity to be heard (in person, by telephone, or by video), and individualized consideration of whether a conviction directly relates to the position or licensed occupation, including consideration of rehabilitation evidence and other mitigating factors. • Provides that a favorable pre-determination is binding on the hiring or licensing authority unless the applicant later incurs new or previously undisclosed convictions. Authorities must publish criminal-history application policies, provide timely notice to applicants and relevant educational institutions, and adopt implementing regulations and reporting procedures. • Amends existing law to clarify that individuals may not be disqualified solely due to a prior conviction unless it directly relates to the position or occupation, places the burden of proof on the hiring or licensing authority, strengthens notice and appeal rights, and removes certain presumptions of disqualification. • Excludes local governments and the Department of Financial Institutions from the pre-application determination requirements.					

Comments and Proposed Changes	• Add to the list of considerations in KRS 335B.020(2)(a) a new factor (6.): “Whether the circumstances of the offense and the nature of the occupation would create an unreasonable risk to public safety, health, or welfare for the applicant to practice the licensed profession or occupation.” • Add a safe harbor provision stating: “Nothing in the chapter shall be construed to require a private certification organization to grant or deny private certification to any individual, nor alter 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.”
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State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
KY	HB 458	1/21/2026	Steven Doan (R)	To Licensing, Occupations, & Administrative Regulations (H) (1/29/2026)	Failed Sine Die	Amend	Medium
Bill Summary		• Category: Alt. Pathways • Creates the “Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses Act” and requires Kentucky licensing boards to issue an occupational license or government certification to an applicant (including a military spouse) licensed in another jurisdiction if the applicant has held the credential for at least one year in good standing, the issuing jurisdiction required examination or education/training standards, the applicant has no disqualifying criminal record, no pending disciplinary matters, and pays applicable fees. • Requires issuance of a Kentucky occupational license where another jurisdiction issued a government certification for the same job, if Kentucky regulates the occupation by licensure and the applicant otherwise satisfies statutory requirements. • Provides for licensure based on at least one year of work experience in another jurisdiction that does not license the occupation, if the occupation has a similar scope of practice in Kentucky and the applicant meets character, disciplinary, and fee requirements; authorizes boards to require a state-specific jurisprudence examination where otherwise required. • Requires boards to issue a written decision within thirty days of receiving a completed application and authorizes applicants to appeal denials or scope-of-practice determinations to a court of general jurisdiction.					

	• Provides that individuals licensed under the Act are subject to Kentucky law and board jurisdiction; excludes occupations regulated by the Kentucky Supreme Court; permits boards to charge a fee not to exceed \$100; preempts local licensing regulations; and clarifies that licenses issued under the Act are valid only in Kentucky. • Authorizes the Governor, during a declared emergency, to recognize out-of-state occupational licenses and expand scope of practice for the duration of the emergency.
Comments and Proposed Changes	• Add a new provision, “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.

Louisiana	Session Dates	Crossover Deadline	Carryover to 2027
	Mar. 9, 2026 – Jun. 1, 2026	May 29, 2026	No

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
LA	SB 266	2/27/2026	Tom A. Pressly (R)	Read second time in Senate and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and International Affairs (3/9/2026)	In Senate	Amend	Medium
Bill Summary		• Category: Review and Repeal • Establishes a process allowing individuals to petition a court for judicial review of statutory requirements for occupational licenses to assess whether such requirements unduly burden entry into a profession, trade, or occupation. • Requires courts to evaluate whether licensing requirements are necessary and narrowly tailored to serve legitimate fiduciary, public health, safety, or welfare objectives. • Provides a legal mechanism to challenge overly restrictive licensing laws and promotes scrutiny of barriers to occupational entry.					
Comments and Proposed Changes		• Add a provision: “Notwithstanding any other provision in this Act, no statute authorizing an occupational regulatory program shall be repealed if the Legislature does not engage in systemic review of the program prior to scheduled repeal date in this Act; in such cases, the scheduled repeal date shall be postponed to July 1st of the following calendar year.”					

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
LA	SB 520	3/31/2026	Mike Reese (R)	Title of substitute read and adopted; becomes Senate Bill No. 524 (5/4/2026)	In Senate	Monitor	Low
Bill Summary		• Category: Miscellaneous • Establishes a comprehensive statewide career and technical education (CTE) pathway system that requires students to complete structured course sequences tied to specific occupations and industry-based credentials. • Requires attainment of at least one “industry-based credential” for program completion, defined as an independent, third-party credential that: ○ Reflects a specific set of competencies related to a particular industry sector or occupation; ○ Is recognized and accepted by employers in the relevant labor market as evidence of workplace readiness; ○ Is portable across employers and geographic areas; ○ Provides a valid and reliable measure of an individual's technical knowledge and skills; and ○ Takes the form of a certification, certificate, or occupational license. • Creates a tiered credential framework that classifies credentials based on labor market value, including alignment with high-demand occupations, wage outcomes, and credential portability, with higher-tier credentials tied to stronger workforce outcomes. • Establishes a “career diploma” that requires completion of coursework, work-based learning, and credential attainment as a condition of graduation. A “career diploma” must be recognized by all Louisiana public postsecondary education institutions as equivalent to a regular standard diploma. • Requires coordination with workforce and credentialing bodies, including alignment with the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council's approved credential list and industry standards. • Establishes ongoing review and oversight of credentials and pathways, including periodic evaluation of credential value, wage outcomes, and relevance to workforce needs, with authority to reclassify or remove credentials.					
Comments and Proposed Changes		• Monitoring only.					

Massachusetts	Session Dates	Crossover Deadline	Carryover to 2027
	Jan. 7, 2026 – July 31, 2026	N/A	No

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
MA	S 198 *REPEAT* *CARRYOVER*	1/14/2025	Cindy Creem (D)	Committee recommended ought to pass and referred to the committee on Senate Ways and Means (1/8/2026)	In Senate	Amend	High
Bill Summary		• Category: Returning Citizens • Note: This bill is a reintroduction of H 4602– monitored on the 2024 watchlist – which failed when the legislative session ended. • Provides that a licensing authority shall give individualized consideration to an applicant’s circumstances when determining whether to deny, diminish, suspend, revoke, withhold, or otherwise limit a professional or occupational license. • Prohibits a licensing authority from considering, or requiring an applicant to disclose: (i) a deferred adjudication; (ii) a conviction for which no incarceration may be imposed; (iii) a conviction that has been sealed, annulled, dismissed, vacated, set aside, expunged, or pardoned; (iv) a juvenile adjudication; (v) a non-violent misdemeanor; (vi) a conviction that occurred more than 3 years prior to the date of the licensing authority’s consideration or where the applicant’s incarceration ended more than 3 years before the date of the licensing authority’s consideration, except for certain crimes including: ○ A crime punishable for a term longer than two and a half years, or certain juvenile acts involving a deadly weapon that would be punishable by imprisonment for such term if committed by an adult; ○ A felony related to a sex offense, a sex offense involving a child, or a sexually violent offense; or ○ A felony related to criminal fraud • Provides that a licensing authority may only deny, diminish, suspend, revoke, withhold, or otherwise limit a professional or occupational license if it determines, by clear and convincing evidence, that: • (i) an applicant’s non-excluded criminal record directly relates to the duties and responsibilities of the profession or occupation; (ii) if an applicant’s non-excluded criminal record is directly related to the duties and responsibilities of the profession or occupation, the licensing authority must determine if the interest of					

	he licensing authority in protecting the public, an individual, or property from harm outweighs the applicant's right to hold the professional or occupational license; and (iii) if the licensing authority determines the harm outweighs the right to hold the license, the licensing authority shall determine if the applicant has failed to be rehabilitated. • Provides that, if the criminal record is directly related to the performance, duties, responsibilities, practices, or functions of the profession, the licensing authority must consider the following, in a light most favorable to the applicant to demonstrate rehabilitation: ○ The age of applicant at the time of the offense; ○ The length of time since the offense; ○ The completion of a criminal sentence, not including financial obligations; ○ A certificate of rehabilitation, restoration of rights or good conduct; ○ Completion of, or active participation in, rehabilitative drug or alcohol treatment or similar programs; ○ Testimonials and recommendation, including progress reports from probation or parole officer; ○ Education and training ○ Employment history ○ The applicant's responsibilities, including civic and community engagement or family contributions ○ Whether the applicant will be bonded in the occupation; and ○ Other evidence of rehabilitation or information that the applicant submitted to the licensing authority, including mitigating circumstances. • Requires a licensing authority, at least once every three years, to review and issue a report on their license application review and approval processes to ensure that those decision promote economic opportunities while fostering public safety in a manner consistent with the stated objectives of applicable statutes. • Creates a special commission on background record requirements and good moral character for occupational licensure consisting of 11 members.
Comments and Proposed Changes	• Amend Section 172N(c)(5) to read "a non-violent misdemeanor other than a criminal sexual act or fraud." • Amend Section 172N(d) to read: "A licensing authority may deny, diminish, suspend, revoke, withhold or otherwise limit a professional or occupational license only if the licensing authority determines, by clear and convincing evidence, that: • Amend Section 172N(d)(1) to read: "First, an applicant's non-excluded criminal record directly relates to the duties and responsibilities of the profession or occupation. A criminal record is directly related to the duties and responsibilities of the profession or occupation if, given the circumstances of the offense in an individual's criminal record and the nature of potential performance in the particular profession or

	occupation which the individual is seeks to practice would create an unreasonable risk to public safety, health, or welfare for the individual to practice the profession, or if the underlying conduct resulting in the conviction would be grounds for disciplinary action against a current licensee, certificant, or other individual holding state recognition.” • Add a safe harbor provision in Section 172N: “Nothing in the chapter shall be construed to require a private certification organization to grant or deny private certification to any individual, nor alter 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.”
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Minnesota	Session Dates	Crossover Deadline	Carryover to 2027
	Feb. 17, 2026 – May. 18, 2026	N/A	No

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
MN	SF 3120	4/1/2026	Aric Putnam (D) Robert J. Kupec (D) Julia E. Coleman (R)	Author added Coleman (4/15/2026)	Failed Sine Die	Support	N/A
MN	HF 2908	03/27/2025	Carlie Kotyza-Witthuhn (D) Nathan Coulter (D)	Author added Coulter (4/7/2026)	Failed Sine Die	Support	N/A
Bill Summary		• Category: 529 Plans • Creates a state-administered children’s higher education savings program that is structured to function alongside Section 529 college savings plans, with funds invested and used for qualified higher education expenses consistent with 529 principles. • Requires the state to notify parents or guardians how to establish, contribute to, and link a MinneKIDS account to a separate Minnesota 529 college savings plan account, facilitating integration between the two accounts. • Provides that funds in MinneKIDS accounts may only be used for qualified higher education expenses, aligning with 529 usage rules, and excludes use for elementary or secondary education expenses. • Specifies that unused funds are forfeited at age 26 and returned to the program, and clarifies that any funds subject to federal 529 rules (Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code) must satisfy federal obligations before reverting to the state account. • Directs the state to evaluate and report on efforts to align and integrate the program with Minnesota’s existing 529 college savings plan, including recommendations for improvement.					
Comments and Proposed Changes		• The bill creates a state-administered children’s higher education savings account program that operates separately from, but may be linked to, Minnesota’s 529 college savings plan.					

Mississippi	Session Dates	Crossover Deadline	Carryover to 2027
	Jan. 6, 2026 – Apr. 5, 2026	Feb. 13, 2026	No

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
MS	HB 319	1/08/2026	Carl L. Mickens (D)	Referred To Business and Commerce (1/8/2026)	Failed	Amend	Medium
Bill Summary		• Category: Returning Citizens • Limits what criminal history information licensing authorities may require from applicants. Specifically, the legislation prohibits licensing authorities from requiring disclosure of: ○ arrests not resulting in conviction; ○ nonviolent misdemeanors; ○ convictions that have been sealed, annulled, dismissed, expunged, pardoned, overturned, or vacated; and ○ convictions older than three years when the applicant was not incarcerated, with exceptions for certain serious felonies. • Allows individuals to petition a licensing authority to determine whether their criminal record disqualifies them, and to offer evidence of rehabilitation, and requires the licensing authority to respond within 30 days. The bill also mandates that petition forms and instructions be made available online. • Provides that if a licensing authority denies a license based on criminal history, the authority must provide written notice of the reasons, appeal rights, earliest re-application date, and that rehabilitation evidence may be considered. • Provides that the authority carries the burden of proof in administrative hearings or litigation to justify that a conviction is directly related to the occupation.					
Comments and Proposed Changes		• Amend Section 73-77-7 to read “a nonviolent misdemeanor other than a criminal sexual act or fraud.” • Add a safe harbor provision in stating: “Nothing in the chapter shall be construed to require a private certification organization to grant or deny private certification to any individual, nor alter 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.”					

Missouri	Session Dates	Crossover Deadline	Carryover to 2027
	Jan. 7, 2026 – May. 15, 2026	N/A	No

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
MO	HB 2300	1/07/2026	Philip Oehlerking (R)	Passed House (4/9/2026)	Failed Sine Die	Amend	Medium
MO	SB 895	1/07/2026	T.J. Roberts (R) Matt Koch (R)	Referred H Emerging Issues (5/15/2026)	Failed Sine Die	Amend	Medium
Bill Summary		• Category: Alt. Pathways • Allows individuals with at least three years of work experience in another state or the District of Columbia in an occupation that does not require licensure in that jurisdiction, but does require licensure in Missouri, to apply for a one-time, nonrenewable two-year temporary license. Applicants must submit proof of experience and a fee, and the relevant oversight body must determine qualifications within forty-five days. • Requires applicants to pass any occupation-specific and Missouri-law examinations required for permanent licensure, and prohibits issuance of a temporary license to applicants with revoked licenses, pending investigations, complaints, or disciplinary actions. The Missouri oversight body <i>may</i> require an exam on Missouri law if such an exam is required for in-state applicants. • Requires that applicants be United States citizens and provide proof of citizenship. Applicants not residing in Missouri may receive conditional approval but must establish domicile within ninety days or risk termination of the temporary license. • Excludes certain occupations, including those subject to interstate licensing compacts, specified trades, federally regulated occupations, and assistant physicians, and clarifies that licenses issued under this section are valid only in Missouri and do not confer compact or reciprocity eligibility. • Provides that temporary licenses expire after two years, after which the individual must apply for permanent licensure under existing requirements. The Division of Professional Registration may promulgate rules to implement the section, subject to legislative review.					
Comments and Proposed Changes		• Add a new provision, “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.”
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State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
MO	SB 1439 	1/07/2026	Nick Schroer (R)	Referred to Government Efficiency Committee (2/5/2026)	Failed Sine Die	Amend	High
Bill Summary		• Category: Miscellaneous • Provides the right to earn a living in a chosen business, occupation, trade, or profession a fundamental right under Missouri law and applies heightened judicial review to state and local laws that burden that right. • Prohibits state and local governments from burdening the right to earn a living unless the government demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence that the restriction is necessary to protect public health, safety, or narrowly defined welfare, is the least restrictive means available, and cannot be achieved through less burdensome alternatives such as voluntary certification. Economic protectionism is expressly excluded as a valid government interest. • Authorizes individuals to bring claims or assert defenses in judicial or administrative proceedings without first applying for or being denied a license, and permits courts to grant declaratory and injunctive relief, nominal damages, and reasonable attorney’s fees and costs to prevailing plaintiffs. • Applies retroactively and prospectively to all state and local laws unless expressly excluded, preserves existing causes of action, includes a severability clause, and waives sovereign immunity for nominal damages arising from violations of the right to earn a living.					
Comments and Proposed Changes		• This bill is a “right to earn a living bill” and limits state and local governments from infringing upon an individual’s right to earn a living. • Add a provision: “Notwithstanding any other provision in this Act, no statute authorizing an occupational regulatory program shall be repealed if the Legislature does not engage in systemic review of the program prior to scheduled repeal date in this Act; in such cases, the scheduled repeal date shall be postponed to July 1st of the following calendar year.”					

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
MO	SB 1168 *REPEAT*	1/07/2026	Steven Roberts (D)	Second Read and Referred S Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence Committee (1/27/2026)	Failed Sine Die	Amend	Medium
Bill Summary		- Category: Returning Citizens Note: this bill is a reintroduction of SB 302 – monitored on the 2025 watchlist and SB 1097 – monitored on the 2024 watchlist – which both failed when the legislative session ended. - Provides that the Circuit Courts of Missouri shall issue during or after sentencing or at any time upon petition by a “certificate of exemplary conduct and good moral character” to individuals who, by clear and convincing evidence, have: - Consistently conducted themselves in a manner warranting the issuance of a certificate; - Consistently demonstrated that they are of good moral character; and - Generally acted in a way that granting the certificate is consistent with the public interest. - An eligible individual is defined as a person who has been convicted of an offense in the state or in any other jurisdiction that does not include an offense or attempted offense that would require a person to register as a sex offender. - Provides that a certificate shall not prevent any licensing authority or any other body from accessing or considering the eligible individual’s history—but also provides that a certificate “removes any or all bars an eligible individual faces with respect to employment, housing, or occupational licenses”					
Comments and Proposed Changes		- While this bill permits a licensing organization to consider a person’s conviction history regardless of whether they have obtained a certificate of exemplary conduct and good moral character, the provision that “a certificate removes any or all bars an eligible individual faces with respect to employment, housing, or occupational licenses” suggests that the licensure board could not base denial of a license or disciplinary action on a conviction. - The provision does not appear to restrict enforcement of eligibility standards and conduct and ethics codes by private certification organizations and professional societies, as those decisions are not “employment, housing, or occupational licenses.” - Circuit court judges may not anticipate or be familiar with how an individual’s conduct may be relevant to a particular license. Accordingly, amend Section 314.211(2) to provide that “a certificate removes any or all automatic bars an eligible individual faces with respect to employment, housing, or occupational licenses but					

	does not restrict a licensing authority from engaging in an individualized consideration of the relevance of the conduct leading to the conviction to the occupational license sought.” • Add a safe harbor provision: “Nothing in the chapter shall be construed to require a private certification organization to grant or deny private certification to any individual, nor alter 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.”
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State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
MO	HB 2649	1/02/2026	Travis Wilson (R)	Public Hearing Completed (H) (2/18/2026)	Failed Sine Die	Monitor	Low
Bill Summary		• Category: Alt. Pathways • Allows an individual who hold a valid current license from the United Kingdom and who has been licensed for at least one year in the UK be eligible to submit an application for a license in Missouri for the same profession at the same level.					
Comments and Proposed Changes		• This bill is being tracked for monitoring purposes.					

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
MO	SB 1279	12/1/2025	Mary Elizabeth Coleman (R)	Voted Do Pass S Economic and Workforce Development Committee (2/11/2026)	Failed Sine Die	Support	N/A
Bill Summary		• Category: 529 Plans • Provides that assets and income held in Missouri's 529 education savings programs (including the MOST program, the deposit program under §§ 166.500–166.529, and any other qualified tuition program under Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code) are exempt from all state and local taxation, provided the assets are maintained and used in accordance with program requirements. • Clarifies that earnings, refunds of qualified education expenses recontributed within sixty days, and other amounts treated in accordance with Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code are not subject to Missouri income tax and qualify for associated federal 529 benefits. • Removes the prior statutory cap (previously \$8,000 per taxpayer or \$16,000 for married joint filers) on the amount of annual contributions that may be subtracted in determining Missouri adjusted gross income, thereby allowing full subtraction of contributions to eligible 529 programs. • Provides that if deductible contributions or earnings are distributed and not used for qualified education expenses or otherwise permitted transfers under 26 U.S.C. § 529, the distributed amount must be included in the participant's (or beneficiary's) Missouri adjusted gross income. • Maintains applicability provisions specifying that the section applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2008, with earlier applicability (January 1, 2004) for the deposit program provisions.					
Comments and Proposed Changes		• The bill expands qualified uses of 529 plans in Missouri. The PCC supports state efforts to broaden 529 coverage as the Department of the Treasury works toward full implementation of the 529 expansion under the OBBBA.					

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
MO	HB 2271	12/8/2026	Ed Lewis (R)	Referred: Emerging Issues(H) (5/15/2026)	Failed Sine Die	Support	N/A
Bill Summary		• Category: Commercial Cheating • This bill follows the CIAA model Legislation. • Creates a new section prohibiting “commercial cheating services” by making it unlawful for any individual or organization, for compensation and with knowledge that the work will be submitted for credit, to prepare, sell, advertise, or complete an assigned task or work product on behalf of a learner. • Prohibits the advertisement, sale, or distribution of confidential exams or assignments (or detailed descriptions thereof) when the actor knows or reasonably should know that doing so violates a sponsor’s rights. • Provides that disclaimers or contractual language (e.g., statements that work will not be submitted as the learner’s own or that the sponsor approved the service) do not shield an organization or individual from liability. • Clarifies that the section does not prohibit tutorial assistance, research materials, or other support expressly permitted by the sponsor, provided there is a reasonable belief the work will not be represented as the learner’s own. • Authorizes enforcement actions by the Attorney General, prosecuting attorneys, or aggrieved sponsors; provides for civil penalties of up to \$5,000 per violation; permits misdemeanor charges (or felony treatment for repeat offenders); and allows prevailing parties to recover liquidated damages of \$2,500 or actual damages (whichever is greater), attorney’s fees, costs, injunctive relief, and punitive damages. • Permits courts to issue injunctive relief to stop ongoing violations and requires courts to preserve the secrecy of confidential exams or assignments through protective orders, sealed records, or in camera proceedings.					
Comments and Proposed Changes		• The PCC supports this legislation.					

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
MO	SB 1233 	1/07/2026	Curtis Trent (R)	Signed by Governor (6/13/026)	Enacted	Amend	High
Bill Summary		• Category: Alt. Pathways • Requires licensure bodies to recognize out-of-state licenses, waiving certain examination, education, and experience requirements for applicants licensed for at least one year in another jurisdiction, subject to good standing and disciplinary review conditions. • Establishes expedited licensure for military and law enforcement spouses, requiring issuance of a license within thirty days and waiving standard licensure requirements where statutory conditions are met. • Creates and expands temporary and expedited licensure pathways, including temporary licenses for certain professions (e.g., dietitians) and broader authority for boards to issue provisional licenses pending full review. • Revises professional qualification and education requirements for licensure, including modifications to degree, experience, and examination standards (e.g., for certified public accountants), and clarifies acceptable education pathways. • Expands licensure mobility by allowing certain out-of-state licensed professionals to practice in Missouri without obtaining a full state license, subject to baseline qualification requirements. • Creates or formalizes licensure structures for additional professions, including licensed interior designers, and integrates those professions into existing licensing boards and regulatory frameworks.					
Comments and Proposed Changes		• Add a new provision, “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.”					

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
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MO	SB 1092	1/07/2026	Donald Douglas (R)	H Informal Calendar Senate Bills for Third Reading (HCS) (5/15/2026)	Failed Sine Die	Amend	Medium
Bill Summary		• Category: Alt. Pathways • Creates a new licensure pathway allowing individuals with at least three years of work experience in another jurisdiction (where licensure was not required) to obtain a one-time, nonrenewable two-year temporary license, subject to examination and eligibility requirements. • Expands licensure by endorsement by requiring licensing boards to waive examination, education, and experience requirements for applicants licensed in other jurisdictions if substantially similar requirements were met, and to expedite licensure for military and law enforcement spouses. • Establishes interstate licensure compacts for certain professions (including dietitians, dentists and dental hygienists, and physician assistants), allowing licensees to obtain a “compact privilege” to practice across participating states without obtaining separate licenses • Requires participating states in such compacts to implement criminal background check requirements and share licensure and disciplinary information through coordinated data systems as a condition of multistate practice. • Amends social work licensure provisions to reduce required supervisory experience from five years to three years for certain supervising licensees. • Amends speech-language pathology licensure requirements to allow required clinical supervision to be performed by a licensed professional in good standing in any state, rather than requiring Missouri licensure.					
Comments and Proposed Changes		• Add a new provision, “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.”					

Nebraska	Session Dates	Crossover Deadline	Carryover to 2027
	Jan. 7, 2026 – Apr. 17, 2026	N/A	No

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
NE	LB 634 *CARRYOVER*	1/22/2025	Ben Hansen (R)	Indefinitely Postponed (4/17/2026)	Failed Sine Die	Amend	Medium
Bill Summary		• Category: Review and Repeal • Creates the Legislative Sunset Review Committee for the purpose of reviewing “reviewable entities” and proposing legislation to eliminate or modify such reviewable entities. “Reviewable entities” include boards, councils, committees, commissions, funds, programs, or any other entity created by the legislature. • Requires all reviewable entities to submit to the Clerk of the Legislature, by a scheduled deadline, a report which includes information regarding the respective reviewable entity’s efficiency, effectiveness, and an assessment as to whether less restrictive or alternative methods of providing services would reduce costs or improve performance “while adequately protecting the public,” among other things. • Upon receipt of an entity’s report, the committee must review and make recommendations regarding best practices and alternatives, as well as evaluations of the “cost and consequences of discontinuing the reviewable entity.” • The committee must then send a copy of the report and recommendations, as to continuing, terminating, or amending the respective entity, to the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature and the Auditor of Public Accounts and hold public hearings to consider the information presented.					
Comments and Proposed Changes		• The bill calls only for a report with recommendations, so it is not as immediately concerning as bills calling for expiration or abolition of regulations or licensure agencies. The aim of the bill, however, is clearly to push for rollback of current licensure requirements. • 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.” • Add another safe harbor provision: “the state may regulate and adopt licensure requirements for any occupation for which the licensure requirements are based on uniform national laws, practices, and/or examinations that have been adopted by at least two-thirds of states and territories in the United States.”					

	• Add another safe harbor provision: “Notwithstanding any other provision in this Act, no reviewable entity which is an occupational licensing program shall be dissolved if the legislature does not complete a systemic review of the reviewable entity prior to the scheduled dissolution date established by the committee; in such cases, the scheduled dissolution date shall be postponed to the following calendar year.” • Revise Sec. 5(1)(h) to replace “while adequately protecting the public” with “while adequately protecting the public health, safety, or welfare.”
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State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
NE	LB 748	1/7/2026	Tony Sorrentino (R)	Approved by Governor (April 14, 2026)	Enacted	Support	N/A
Bill Summary		• Category: 529 Plans • Expands the definition of “qualified education expenses” under the Nebraska Educational Savings Plan Trust to expressly include qualified postsecondary credentialing expenses and adds a definition of “recognized postsecondary credential program,” aligning state law with Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code. • Authorizes the State Treasurer to enter into agreements with recognized postsecondary credential programs and permits payments from the program fund to such programs, in addition to eligible postsecondary educational institutions. • Clarifies that participation agreements do not guarantee admission to, residency status at, continued attendance at, or graduation from an eligible postsecondary educational institution or recognized postsecondary credential program, and extends similar non-guarantee language to elementary and secondary schools beginning January 1, 2029. • Provides that, prior to January 1, 2029, program funds may be used for eligible postsecondary educational institutions and recognized postsecondary credential programs, and beginning January 1, 2029, may also be used for elementary and secondary school tuition (subject to the federal \$10,000 annual cap per beneficiary). • Clarifies that eligible postsecondary educational institutions, recognized postsecondary credential programs, and (beginning January 1, 2029) elementary and secondary schools obtain ownership of payments at the time such payments are made, and confirms that program funds are fully portable to any eligible institution or recognized credential program.					
Comments and Proposed Changes		• The bill expands qualified uses of 529 plans in Nebraska. The PCC supports state efforts to broaden 529 coverage as the Department of the Treasury works toward full implementation of the 529 expansion under the OBBBA.					

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
NE	LB 961 	1/12/2026	Terrell McKinney (D)	Notice of hearing for January 23, 2026 (1/15/2026)	Failed Sine Die	Amend	High
Bill Summary		• Category: Returning Citizens • Establishes a Certificate of Qualification for Employment (CQE) that directly impacts occupational licensing determinations. • Allows an individual with a conviction affecting licensure to petition the court of conviction for a CQE, without a filing fee. • Requires the court to grant a petition only if the petitioner has remained conviction-free for specified waiting periods and the court finds granting the certificate would not pose an unreasonable risk to public safety. • Establishes a rebuttable presumption in favor of granting a CQE for individuals meeting longer conviction-free waiting periods and whose convictions are not for the most serious felony classes. • Provides that upon issuance of a CQE: ○ Mandatory collateral sanctions relating to occupational licensing are lifted; ○ Licensing boards must treat mandatory disqualifications as discretionary; ○ Licensing authorities must conduct individualized, case-by-case assessments; and ○ Licensing authorities may not reconsider or reject factual findings made by the court in granting the certificate. • Creates a rebuttable presumption that the conviction covered by the CQE is not sufficient evidence that the individual is unfit for licensure, though the licensing authority may rebut the presumption through an individualized determination. • Allows a CQE to be introduced as evidence of due care in administrative or judicial proceedings relating to licensing decisions.					
Comments and Proposed Changes		• The PCC strongly opposes this bill as it essentially prevents licensing boards from denying licenses based on criminal conviction history. • Amend Sec 6. (2)(b) to read “Would not pose an unreasonable risk to the safety of the public or any individual or health or public welfare.”					

	• Amend Sec 7. (2)(a) to read “The court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the petitioner has not been rehabilitated or that granting the petition would pose an unreasonable risk to the safety of the public or any individual; or” • Add a safe harbor provision: “Nothing in the chapter shall be construed to require a private certification organization to grant or deny private certification to any individual, nor alter 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.”
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New Hampshire	Session Dates	Crossover Deadline	Carryover to 2027
	Jan. 7, 2026 – Apr. 17, 2026	N/A	No

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
NH	HB 1340 	1/7/2026	Jeremy Slottje (R) Donald McFarlane (R)	Inexpedient to Legislate: Motion Adopted Voice Vote 03/11/2026 House Journal 7 (3/11/2026)	Failed	Oppose	High
Bill Summary		• Category: Review and Repeal • Directs every agency to conduct a comprehensive review of all occupational regulations in its jurisdiction and for each: ○ (1) Articulate with specificity the public health, safety, or welfare objectives served by the regulation; and ○ (2) Articulate the reason why the regulation is necessary to serve the specified objective. • If the regulation is not demonstrably necessary and carefully tailored to fulfill legitimate public health, safety, or welfare objectives, the agency must either repeal or modify the occupational regulation itself or recommend that it be repealed or modified to the legislature. • Provides that notwithstanding any other provision of law, any person may petition any agency to repeal or modify any occupational regulation within its jurisdiction. Within 90 days of a petition, an agency must repeal or modify the regulation or state the basis on which it concludes the regulation conforms with the “demonstrably necessary and carefully tailored” standard. • Provides that after 90 days of inaction by an agency following a petition, the individual petitioning the agency may bring the challenge to superior court and prevail if the court finds by a preponderance of evidence that the challenged regulation ○ (1) “on its face or in its effect burdens the creation of a business, the entry of a business into a particular market, or entry into a profession or occupation” and either: ▪ (a) Is not demonstrably necessary and carefully tailored to fulfill legitimate public health, safety, or welfare objectives; or ▪ (b) If the challenged occupation is necessary to the legitimate public health, safety, or welfare objectives, such objectives can be effectively served by regulations less burdensome to economic opportunity.					

	• If a plaintiff prevails, the court must enjoin further enforcement of the challenged occupational regulation and award reasonable attorney's fees and costs to the plaintiff. • This section shall preempt all inconsistent rules, regulations, codes, ordinances and other laws adopted by a county, city, town or other political subdivision of this state regarding the right of individuals to pursue a chosen business or profession, and all such rules, regulations, codes, ordinances, and other laws are declared null and void.
Comments and Proposed Changes	• The PCC opposes this legislation as currently drafted. • This bill is a more direct threat to occupational licensing. Unlike other bills calling for a commission or a report, this bill mandates that agencies repeal regulations that do not meet the designated evidentiary standards. It also allows a private cause of action for individuals to challenge occupational licensing regulations. • The "demonstrably necessary" standard is almost impossible to meet, especially for regulations that reflect a national standard of personal qualifications, and this is especially harmful in the context of an agency being forced to defend occupational regulations in court under a vague standard. • The bill invites expensive litigation over regulations, and accordingly, the PCC opposes passage of the bill, even if amended to add safe harbors to protect both regulatory recognition of private certifications and statutory prohibitions on deceptive trade practices.

New Jersey	Session Dates	Crossover Deadline	Carryover to 2027
	Jan. 13, 2026 – Dec. 31, 2026	N/A	Yes

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
NJ	S 3874	03/12/2026	Kristin M. Corrado (R) Anthony M. Bucco (R)	Introduced in the Senate, Referred to Senate Higher Education Committee (3/12/2026)	In Senate	Support	N/A
Bill Summary		• Category: 529 Plans • Amends New Jersey's Section 529 (NJBEST) program to treat rollovers from a 529 account to a Roth IRA as "qualified withdrawals." • Provides that such Roth IRA rollovers are excluded from New Jersey gross income tax, aligning State tax treatment with recent federal law changes. • Updates the definition of "qualified withdrawal" under NJBEST to include special rollovers to Roth IRAs permitted under Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code. • Expands the definition of "qualified distribution" for State tax purposes to include traditional higher education expenses, rollovers between qualified accounts, and 529-to-Roth IRA rollovers. • Applies retroactively to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2024. • Ensures that taxpayers are not penalized at the State level for utilizing the new federal 529-to-Roth IRA rollover option, which is subject to federal limits (e.g., account age, contribution timing, and lifetime caps)					
Comments and Proposed Changes		• This bill expands qualified uses of 529 plans in New Jersey. The PCC supports state efforts to broaden 529 coverage as the Department of the Treasury works toward full implementation of the 529 expansion under the OBBBA.					

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
NJ	A 4208 	2/19/2026	Carol A. Murphy (D)	Introduced, Referred to Assembly Regulated Professions Committee (2/19/2026)	In Assembly	Amend	High
Bill Summary		• Category: Miscellaneous • Establishes a private right of action for individuals denied professional licensure who allege the denial resulted from a policy or process that has a disparate impact based on race or ethnicity, allowing complaints to be filed with the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights or directly in Superior Court. • Applies existing civil rights enforcement procedures to licensure complaints, incorporating the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination framework governing filing, investigation, jury trials, remedies, and damages. • Places the burden on the complainant to demonstrate disparate impact, requiring proof by a preponderance of evidence that a licensing denial resulted from a policy or process that: ○ Has a disproportionate racial or ethnic impact; ○ Is applied inconsistently or unreasonably; or ○ Relies on factors unrelated to the profession. • Establishes an affirmative defense for licensing entities, allowing justification of policies with disparate impacts if they are based on legitimate, job-related factors (e.g., education, training, experience, or examination), are reasonably applied, and account for the disparity. • Limits the use of licensing criteria that produce disparate impacts, providing that a defense fails if the complainant demonstrates that alternative policies or processes could achieve the same purpose without creating the disparate impact.					
Comments and Proposed Changes		• The PCC urges that the legislation be amended to include a safe harbor provision for licensing requirements for 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, if at least two-thirds of states recognize that private certification as a qualification for initial licensure in the profession.					

New York	Session Dates	Crossover Deadline	Carryover to 2027
	Jan. 7, 2026 – Jun. 6, 2026	N/A	No

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
NY	S 2717 *REPEAT* *CARRYOVER*	1/22/2025	Robert G. Ort (R) Robert Rolison (R)	Referred to Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs (1/7/2026)	In Senate	Amend	Medium
NY	A 5960 *REPEAT* *CARRYOVER*	2/25/2025	Brian Miller (R)	Referred to Economic Development (1/7/2026)	In Assembly	Amend	Medium
Bill Summary		• Category: Alt. Pathways • Note: This bill is a reintroduction of S 1273 / A 4569 – monitored on the 2024 watchlist – which failed when the legislative session ended. • Provides that notwithstanding any provision of the law to the contrary, any applicant who is the spouse of a member of the armed forces of the U.S., national guard, or reserves may submit satisfactory evidence of licensure, certification, or registration to practice an equivalent occupation issued by another U.S. jurisdiction in lieu of the submissions required for non-military spouses, provided that such license, certification, or certificate of registration was granted in compliance with standards which were, in the judgment of the secretary, not lower than that of New York. • Exempts military spouses engaged in the business of real estate to maintain a place of business within NY.					
Comments and Proposed Changes		• “Satisfactory evidence of licensure ... in an equivalent occupation” may give room for New York to require that the license be in good standing, but it does not expressly include that requirement. The reach of this bill is limited to spouses of military service members, but currently it does not comport with many of the PCC’s principles. • Add a new provision, “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.”					

Ohio	Session Dates	Crossover Deadline	Carryover to 2027
	Jan. 5, 2026 – Dec. 31, 2026	N/A	No

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
OH	SB 311	10/29/2025	Andy O. Brenner (R)	Referred to Education Committee (11/5/2025)	In Senate	Support	N/A
Bill Summary		• Category: Commercial Cheating • This bill is the CIAA model Legislation. • Creates a new section prohibiting “commercial cheating services” by making it unlawful for any individual or organization, for compensation and with knowledge that the work will be submitted for credit, to prepare, sell, advertise, or complete an assigned task or work product on behalf of a learner. • Prohibits the advertisement, sale, or distribution of confidential exams or assignments (or detailed descriptions thereof) when the actor knows or reasonably should know that doing so violates a sponsor’s rights. • Provides that disclaimers or contractual language (e.g., statements that work will not be submitted as the learner’s own or that the sponsor approved the service) do not shield an organization or individual from liability. • Clarifies that the section does not prohibit tutorial assistance, research materials, or other support expressly permitted by the sponsor, provided there is a reasonable belief the work will not be represented as the learner’s own. • Authorizes enforcement actions by the Attorney General, prosecuting attorneys, or aggrieved sponsors; provides for civil penalties of up to \$5,000 per violation; permits misdemeanor charges (or felony treatment for repeat offenders); and allows prevailing parties to recover liquidated damages of \$2,500 or actual damages (whichever is greater), attorney’s fees, costs, injunctive relief, and punitive damages. • Permits courts to issue injunctive relief to stop ongoing violations and requires courts to preserve the secrecy of confidential exams or assignments through protective orders, sealed records, or in camera proceedings.					
Comments and Proposed Changes		• The PCC supports this legislation.					

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
OH	HB 59	2/4/2026	Mark Hiner (R) Sarah E. Fowler Arthur (R)	Senate - Re-referred Government Oversight and Reform (2/18/2026)	In House	Monitor	Low
Bill Summary		• Category: Review and Repeal • Requires certain occupational licensing boards to undergo periodic sunset review and demonstrate a continued public need for licensure, including consideration of less restrictive alternatives. Also requires licensing agencies regulation certain professions to submit detailed data during reviews, including application volumes, approval and denial rates, disciplinary actions, revenues, costs, and regulatory impacts • Establishes and expands reciprocity pathways by requiring licensing authorities to issue licenses to applicants holding out-of-state licenses or substantially equivalent experience for certain professions. • Modifies health care licensing requirements by reducing application and renewal fees and clarifying certification and renewal obligations for physician assistants, dietitians, and radiologist assistants.					
Comments and Proposed Changes		• This bill is being tracked for monitoring purposes.					

Rhode Island	Session Dates	Crossover Deadline	Carryover to 2027
	Jan. 6, 2026 – Jun. 30, 2026	N/A	No

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
RI	SB 2026	1/09/2026	Elaine J. Morgan (R)	Committee recommended measure be held for further study (4/30/2026)	In House	Support	N/A
Bill Summary		• Category: 529 Plans • Revises the tax treatment of nonqualified withdrawals from Rhode Island's 529 tuition savings program by expanding the definition of nonqualified withdrawals to include rollovers to other Section 529 plans outside the state program and certain withdrawals not used for qualified higher education expenses. • Requires recapture of prior state tax benefits by adding nonqualified withdrawals back into Rhode Island taxable income, subject to specified limitations based on prior contribution deductions and applicable lookback periods. • Clarifies that qualified withdrawals from the Rhode Island 529 plan remain excluded from state taxable income, while maintaining existing contribution deduction limits and carryforward provisions.					
Comments and Proposed Changes		• This bill expands qualified uses of 529 plans in Rhode Island. The PCC supports state efforts to broaden 529 coverage as the Department of the Treasury works toward full implementation of the 529 expansion under the OBBBA.					

South Dakota	Session Dates	Crossover Deadline	Carryover to 2027
	Jan. 13, 2026 – Mar. 30, 2026	Feb. 24, 2026	No

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
SD	HB 1033	1/13/2026	House Committee on State Affairs	Signed by the Governor on (2/6/2026)	Enacted	Support	N/A
Bill Summary		• Category: 529 Plans • Amends § 13-63-1 to update and clarify definitions governing South Dakota's higher education savings program (529 plan), including definitions for account, account owner, contribution, contributor, program manager, rollover, and related administrative terms. • Updates reference to the Internal Revenue Code to the January 1, 2026, version and aligns key definitions, including, "eligible education institution," "member of the family," "qualified higher education expenses," and "qualified tuition program," with Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code. • Clarifies the meaning of "cash" and permissible forms of contribution, defines "investment direction," and maintains the framework for rollovers consistent with federal 529 requirements.					
Comments and Proposed Changes		• The bill expands qualified uses of 529 plans in South Dakota. The PCC supports state efforts to broaden 529 coverage as the Department of the Treasury works toward full implementation of the 529 expansion under the OBBBA.					

Tennessee	Session Dates	Crossover Deadline	Carryover to 2027
	Jan. 13, 2026 – Apr. 24, 2026	N/A	No

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
TN	HB 1677	01/14/2026	Rick Eldridge (R)	Sponsor added(4/21/2026)	Failed Sine Die	Amend	Medium
TN	SB 1692	01/14/2026	Becky Duncan Massey (R)	Pub. Ch. 1081, Effective date(s) 05/22/2026, 07/01/2026 (5/27/2026)	Enacted	Amend	Medium
Bill Summary		• Category: Alt. Pathways • Establishes the “Military Families Licensing Recognition Act.” • Requires occupational licensing boards to recognize out-of-state and military occupational licenses held by active-duty military members, veterans, and their spouses or dependents. • Requires a licensing board to issue an occupational license at the same practice level to an applicant who holds a current, valid license in another state or the military with a similar scope of practice, has held the license in good standing for at least one year, met education or examination requirements, has no disqualifying criminal record, and has no revoked or surrendered license or pending disciplinary matter. • Alternatively requires licensure for an applicant with at least three years of work experience in the occupation who satisfies the criminal background and disciplinary conditions specified in the Act. • Mandates that boards issue a license within ten business days of receiving a completed application, develop verification procedures, and authorizes boards to order cessation of practice and refer perjurious applications for prosecution if an application is later found invalid. • Provides that licenses issued under the Act are valid only in Tennessee and do not create eligibility for interstate compact recognition unless otherwise provided by law; excludes occupations regulated by the state supreme court; and clarifies that the Act does not prevent other licensure pathways or private certification recognition. • Requires licensing boards to prominently post notice on their websites and application materials informing military members and families of eligibility under the Act; effective July 1, 2026.					
Comments and Proposed Changes		• Add a new provision, “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.
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State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
TN	HB 470 	01/14/2026	Tim Rudd (R)	Reset on Final cal. of Commerce Committee (3/4/2026)	Failed Sine Die	Oppose	High
TN	SB 226 	01/17/2026	Adam Lowe (R)	Failed (no motion) in Senate Commerce and Labor Committee (3/10/2026)	Failed Sine Die	Oppose	High
Bill Summary		• Category: First Amendment • Prohibits licensing authorities from denying, suspending, revoking, or otherwise taking adverse action against a professional license based on an individual's sincerely held religious beliefs or moral convictions, including refusal to affirm certain statements or providing faith-based services that meet professional standards. • Protects licensees and applicants from adverse actions based on the lawful expression of religious beliefs or moral convictions, to the extent protected by the U.S. and Tennessee Constitutions. • Clarifies that engaging in constitutionally protected religious exercise or speech is not grounds for licensing discipline or denial. • Prohibits discrimination in access to or participation in real estate multiple-listing services (MLS) or broker organizations based on religious or moral beliefs, including restrictions on membership requirements and fee disparities. • Establishes a private right of action for individuals harmed by violations, including recovery of damages, attorney's fees, and other appropriate remedies.					
Comments and Proposed Changes		• The PCC opposes this legislation as it goes beyond protections for religious beliefs and provides a private cause of action.					

Utah	Session Dates	Crossover Deadline	Carryover to 2027
	Jan. 7, 2026 – Apr. 17, 2026	N/A	No

State	Bill #	Introduced	Primary Sponsor(s)	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority
UT	SB 174 	1/22/2026	Keven J. Stratton (R)	Signed (3/25/2026)	Enacted	Oppose	High
Bill Summary		• Category: First Amendment • Allows a health care provider to refuse to participate in or provide a health care service that violates the provider's religious beliefs or conscience. • Allows a religious or conscience-based health care institution or health care payer to refuse to participate in, provide, or pay for a health care service that violates its religious beliefs or conscience. ○ Provides that refusal to participate in a service based on religious belief or conscience is not, by itself, evidence of unlawful discrimination. • Provides that a health care provider, health care institution, or health care payer is not civilly, criminally, or administratively liable for exercising the right of religious belief or conscience. • Provides that a health care institution is not liable for claims arising from a provider's exercise of conscience rights. • Limits the right of refusal by: ○ Requiring compliance with the federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) and other federal law, including medical screening and stabilizing treatment in emergency departments; ○ Limiting objections to specific health care services based on religious belief or conscience; and ○ Clarifying that providers and institutions must continue to provide services that do not violate their religious beliefs or conscience. • Requires a health care provider or institution exercising conscience rights to: ○ Prominently post notice on its website and in reception areas listing services it does not provide and directing patients to a Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) resource; and ○ Disclose to HHS the services it declines to provide based on religious belief or conscience. • Prohibits discrimination against a health care provider, institution, or payer for:					

	○ Exercising the right of religious belief or conscience; or ○ Reporting, assisting, or participating in an investigation or proceeding regarding violations of the Act. • Defines “Adverse action” to exclude reassignment to a position of reasonably equal pay, opportunity, and circumstance based on sound business operations, unless the reassignment constitutes retaliation or punishment for exercising religious belief or conscience rights. • Defines “Discriminate” to mean taking or threatening to take an adverse action against a health care provider, institution, or payer because the entity: ○ Declined to participate in a health care service based on religious belief or conscience; or ○ Reported or threatened to report a violation of the Act.
Comments and Proposed Changes	• The PCC opposes this legislation as it goes beyond protections for religious beliefs and provides a private cause of action.