WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2022 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4634

By Delegates Espinosa, Foster, Steele, Martin,
Jennings, Horst, Burkhammer, Holstein, and
Howell

[Introduced February 10, 2022; Referred to the Committee on Government Organization]

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A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated §21-17-1, §21-17-2, §21-17-3, §21-17-4, §21-17-5, §21-17-6, §21-17-7, §21-17-8, §21-17-9, §21-17-10, §21-17-11, and §21-17-12; to amend said code by adding thereto a new article, designated §29-33-1, §29-33-2, §29-33-3, §29-33-4, §29-33-5, §29-33-6, §29-33-7, §29-33-8, §29-33-9, §29-33-10, §29-33-11, and §29-33-12; and to amend said code by adding thereto a new article, designated §30-1F-1, §30-1F-2, §30-1F-3, §30-1F-4, §30-1F-5, §30-1F-6, §30-1F-7, §30-1F-8, §30-1F-9, §30-1F-10, §30-1F-11, and §30-1F-12, all relating to occupational licensing or other authorization to practice; providing for definitions; providing for an application method for persons with a valid license in another state to be licensed in this state; providing that a person applying for licensure in this state has worked in the licensed occupation for at least one year; providing for other criteria a person must satisfy when applying for licensure in this state; establishing that an applicant seeking licensure in this state not have ever had a license revoked or suspended in another state; providing that an applicant seeking licensure in this state not have any pending investigations or disciplinary proceedings in another state; providing that the boards in every state where a person is licensed hold the applicant in good standing for licensure in this state; providing that an applicant pay all applicable fees; providing that an applicant meet all state bonding requirements for licensure in this state: providing for an application fee that may be assessed by the board; providing for 60 days for a board to take action on a completed application; providing for an appeal mechanism for a person to appeal any decision of a board relating to occupational licensure; providing for state law preemption against any township, municipality, county, or other government to regulate occupational licensure; providing for certain exempted professions; and providing for rulemaking authority to any board affected to carry out the provisions of the article.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 21. LABOR.

ARTICLE 17. REVIEW AND CREDENTIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PROCEDURES ACT.

§21-17-1. Applicability and short title.

The provisions of this article apply to all professions requiring an occupational license or other authorization to practice or perform a specific occupation in this state regulated by this chapter. This article may be known and cited as the "RECAP Act."

§21-17-2. Definitions.

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- The words defined in this section have the meanings given them for purposes of this article
 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.
- "Board" means a government agency, board, department, or other government entity that
 regulates a lawful occupation and issues an occupational license or other authorization to practice
 to an individual.
 - "Lawful occupation" means a course of conduct, pursuit, or profession that includes the sale of goods or services that are not themselves illegal to sell irrespective of whether the individual selling them is subject to an occupational license.
 - "Occupational license" is a nontransferable authorization in law for an individual to perform or practice a lawful occupation based on meeting personal qualifications established by the Legislature. In an occupation for which a license is required, it is illegal for an individual who does not possess a valid occupational license to perform or practice the occupation.
 - "Other authorization to practice" is a nontransferable acknowledgment, other than a license, by a state government or board that is provided to an individual asserting that the individual has met the educational and examination requirements to engage in a lawful occupation.
- 17 <u>"Other state" or "another state" means any United States territory or state in the United</u>

18	States other than West Virginia.
19	"Scope of practice" means the procedures, actions, processes, and work that a person
20	may perform under an occupational license or other authorization to practice issued in this state.
	§21-17-3. Occupational license or other authorization to practice.
1	(a) Notwithstanding any other law, the board shall issue an occupational license or other
2	authorization to practice to a person upon application, if all the following apply:
3	(1) The person holds a valid occupational license or other authorization to practice in
4	another state in a lawful occupation with a similar scope of practice and with education,
5	experience, and examination requirements for licensure or authorization to practice similar to
6	those of this state, as determined by the board in this state;
7	(2) The person has held the occupational license or other authorization to practice in the
8	state where he or she holds a valid license or other authorization to practice for at least one year
9	(3) The person has met all educational and examination requirements for occupational
10	licensure or other authorization to practice in the state where he or she holds a valid license;
11	(4) The person is in good standing with the board in every other state where he or she
12	holds a valid license;
13	(5) The person has established residency as a West Virginia resident as defined by §11-
14	21-7(a) of this code;
15	(6) The person does not have a disqualifying criminal record as determined by the board
16	in this state;
17	(7) The person has never had his or her license or other authorization to practice revoked
18	by the board in another state because of negligence or intentional misconduct related to the
19	person's work in the occupation;
20	(8) The person did not surrender an occupational license or other authorization to practice

because of negligence or intentional misconduct related to the person's work in the occupation in

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another state;

(9) The person does not have a complaint, allegation, or investigation pending before a board in another state. If the person has a complaint, allegation, or investigation pending, the board in this state shall not issue or deny an occupational license or other authorization to practice to the person until the complaint, allegation, or investigation is resolved; and

(10) The person pays all applicable fees and meets all applicable bonding requirements in this state.

(b) If West Virginia requires an occupational license to lawfully work in a profession, and another state does not issue an occupational license for the same profession and instead issues another authorization to practice, West Virginia shall issue an occupational license to the person if the person otherwise satisfies subsection (a) of this section.

(c) Any person issued a license under this article must comply with all relevant continuing education requirements to renew a license established by the board and any other rule promulgated by the board as provided by §21-17-8 of this code.

§21-17-4. Work experience.

Notwithstanding any other law, the board shall issue an occupational license or other authorization to practice to a person upon application based on work experience in another state, if all the following apply:

(1) The person worked in a state that does not use an occupational license or other authorization to practice that regulates a lawful occupation, but West Virginia uses an occupational license or other authorization to practice that regulates a lawful occupation with a similar scope of practice, as determined by the board;

(2) The person worked for at least two years in the lawful occupation and has acquired experience demonstrating knowledge and proficiency in the occupation similar to that which may be achieved through compliance with the education and examination requirements to practice in this state, as determined by the board;

(3) The person has taken and passed any required national examinations to lawfully

13 practice the occupation or use a title in connection with an occupation in another state; and 14 (4) The person satisfies §21-17-3(a)(5), §21-17-3(a)(6), and §21-17-3(a)(10) of this code. §21-17-5. State law examination. 1 A board may require a person to pass a jurisprudential examination specific to relevant 2 West Virginia laws that regulate the occupation if an occupational license or other authorization 3 to practice in this state requires a person to pass such examination for original licensure. §21-17-6. Decision. 1 The board will provide the person with a written decision issuing or denying a license within 2 60 days after receiving a complete application. §21-17-7. Appeal. 1 (a) The person may appeal the board's decision to a court of general jurisdiction in the 2 county where the person resides. 3 (b) The person may appeal the board's: 4 (1) Denial of an occupational license or other authorization to practice; 5 (2) Determination of the occupation; 6 (3) Determination of the similarity of the scope of practice of the occupational license or 7 other authorization to practice; or 8 (4) Other determinations under this article. §21-17-8. State laws and jurisdiction. 1 A person who obtains an occupational license or other authorization to practice pursuant 2 to this article is subject to: 3 (1) The laws regulating the occupation in this state; and 4 (2) The jurisdiction of the board in this state. §21-17-9. Limitations. 1 (a) An occupational license or other authorization to practice issued pursuant to this article 2 is valid only in West Virginia. It does not make the person eligible to work in another state under

- 3 an interstate compact or reciprocity agreement unless otherwise provided in law.
- 4 (b) Nothing in this article prevents West Virginia from entering into a licensing compact or
- 5 reciprocity agreement with another state, foreign province, or foreign country.
- 6 (c) Nothing in this article prevents West Virginia from recognizing occupational credentials
- 7 <u>issued by a foreign province, foreign country, international organization, or other entity.</u>

§21-17-10. Cost for application.

- 1 The board may charge a fee to the person to recoup its costs. The fee may not exceed
- 2 <u>the cost of an application for original licensure charged by the board. Any application for renewing</u>
- 3 <u>a license after obtaining a license under this article shall comply with the board's established</u>
- 4 renewal procedures and fee schedule.

§21-17-11. Preemption.

- 1 This article preempts laws by township, municipal, county, and other governments in the
- 2 <u>state which regulate occupational licenses and other authorization to practice.</u>

§21-17-12. Rulemaking.

- 1 Boards affected by these provisions may promulgate rules pursuant to §29A-3-1 et seq.
- 2 of this code to carry out the provisions of this article.

CHAPTER 29. MISCELLANEOUS BOARDS AND OFFICERS.

ARTICLE 33. REVIEW AND CREDENTIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PROCEDURES ACT.

§29-33-1. Applicability.

- 1 The provisions of this article apply to all professions requiring an occupational license or
- 2 other authorization to practice or perform a specific occupation in this state regulated by this
- 3 chapter. This article may be known and cited as the "RECAP Act."

§29-33-2. Definitions.

1 The words defined in this section have the meanings given them for purposes of this article

2 unless the context clearly requires otherwise. 3 "Board" means a government agency, board, department, or other government entity that 4 regulates a lawful occupation and issues an occupational license or other authorization to practice 5 to an individual. 6 "Lawful occupation" means a course of conduct, pursuit, or profession that includes the 7 sale of goods or services that are not themselves illegal to sell irrespective of whether the 8 individual selling them is subject to an occupational license. 9 "Occupational license" is a nontransferable authorization in law for an individual to perform 10 or practice a lawful occupation based on meeting personal qualifications established by the 11 Legislature. In an occupation for which a license is required, it is illegal for an individual who does 12 not possess a valid occupational license to perform or practice the occupation. 13 "Other authorization to practice" is a nontransferable acknowledgment, other than a 14 license, by a state government or board that is provided to an individual asserting that the 15 individual has met the educational and examination requirements to engage in a lawful 16 occupation. 17 "Other state" or "another state" means any United States territory or state in the United 18 States other than West Virginia. 19 "Scope of practice" means the procedures, actions, processes, and work that a person 20 may perform under an occupational license or other authorization to practice issued in this state. §29-33-3. Occupational license or other authorization to practice. 1 (a) Notwithstanding any other law, the board shall issue an occupational license or other 2 authorization to practice to a person upon application, if all the following apply: 3 (1) The person holds a valid occupational license or other authorization to practice in 4 another state in a lawful occupation with a similar scope of practice and with education,

experience, and examination requirements for licensure or authorization to practice similar to

those of this state, as determined by the board in this state;

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7 (2) The person has held the occupational license or other authorization to practice in the 8 state where he or she holds a valid license or other authorization to practice for at least one year; 9 (3) The person has met all educational and examination requirements for occupational 10 licensure or other authorization to practice in the state where he or she holds a valid license; 11 (4) The person is in good standing with the board in every other state where he or she 12 holds a valid license; (5) The person has established residency as a West Virginia resident as defined by §11-13 14 21-7(a) of this code; 15 (6) The person does not have a disqualifying criminal record as determined by the board 16 in this state; 17 (7) The person has never had his or her license or other authorization to practice revoked 18 by the board in another state because of negligence or intentional misconduct related to the 19 person's work in the occupation; 20 (8) The person did not surrender an occupational license or other authorization to practice 21 because of negligence or intentional misconduct related to the person's work in the occupation in 22 another state; 23 (9) The person does not have a complaint, allegation, or investigation pending before a 24 board in another state. If the person has a complaint, allegation, or investigation pending, the 25 board in this state shall not issue or deny an occupational license or other authorization to practice 26 to the person until the complaint, allegation, or investigation is resolved; and 27 (10) The person pays all applicable fees and meets all applicable bonding requirements 28 in this state. 29 (b) If West Virginia requires an occupational license to lawfully work in a profession, and 30 another state does not issue an occupational license for the same profession and instead issues 31 another authorization to practice, West Virginia shall issue an occupational license to the person 32 if the person otherwise satisfies subsection (a) of this section.

(c) Any person issued a license under this article must comply with all relevant continuing education requirements to renew a license established by the board and any other rule promulgated by the board as required in §29-33-8 of this code.

§29-33-4. Work experience.

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Notwithstanding any other law, the board shall issue an occupational license or other

authorization to practice to a person upon application based on work experience in another state,

if all the following apply:

(1) The person worked in a state that does not use an occupational license or other authorization to practice that regulates a lawful occupation, but this state uses an occupational license or other authorization to practice that regulates a lawful occupation with a similar scope of practice, as determined by the board;

(2) The person worked for at least two years in the lawful occupation and has acquired experience demonstrating knowledge and proficiency in the occupation similar to that which may be achieved through compliance with the education and examination requirements to practice of this state, as determined by the board;

(3) The person has taken and passed any required national examinations to lawfully practice the occupation or use a title in connection with an occupation in another state; and

(4) The person satisfies §29-33-3(a)(5), §29-33-3(a)(6), and §29-33-3(a)(10) of this code. §29-33-5. State law examination.

A board may require a person to pass a jurisprudential examination specific to relevant

West Virginia laws that regulate the occupation if an occupational license or other authorization

to practice in this state requires a person to pass such examination for original licensure.

§29-33-6. Decision.

The board will provide the person with a written decision issuing or denying a license within
 60 days after receiving a complete application.

§29-33-7. Appeal.

1 (a) The person may appeal the board's decision to a court of general jurisdiction in the 2 county where the person resides. 3 (b) The person may appeal the board's: 4 (1) Denial of an occupational license or other authorization to practice; 5 (2) Determination of the occupation; 6 (3) Determination of the similarity of the scope of practice of the occupational license or 7 other authorization to practice; or 8 (4) Other determinations under this article. §29-33-8. State laws and jurisdiction. 1 A person who obtains an occupational license or other authorization to practice pursuant 2 to this article is subject to: 3 (1) The laws regulating the occupation in this state; and 4 (2) The jurisdiction of the board in this state. §29-33-9. Limitations. 1 (a) An occupational license or other authorization to practice issued pursuant to this article 2 is valid only in West Virginia. It does not make the person eligible to work in another state under 3 an interstate compact or reciprocity agreement unless otherwise provided in law. 4 (b) Nothing in this article prevents West Virginia from entering into a licensing compact or 5 reciprocity agreement with another state, foreign province, or foreign country. 6 (c) Nothing in this article prevents West Virginia from recognizing occupational credentials 7 issued by a foreign province, foreign country, international organization, or other entity. §29-33-10. Cost for application. 1 The board may charge a fee to the person to recoup its costs. The fee may not exceed 2 the cost of an application for original licensure charged by the board. Any application for renewing 3 a license after obtaining a license under this article shall comply with the board's established 4 renewal procedures and fee schedule.

§29-33-11. Preemption.

This article preempts laws by township, municipal, county, and other governments in the

2 <u>state which regulate occupational licenses and other authorization to practice.</u>

§29-33-12. Rulemaking.

- 1 Boards affected by these provisions may promulgate rules pursuant to §29A-3-1 et seg.
- 2 of this code to carry out the provisions of this article.

CHAPTER 30. PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS.

ARTICLE 1F. REVIEW AND CREDENTIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PROCEDURES ACT.

§30-1F-1. Applicability.

- 1 The provisions of this article apply to all professions requiring an occupational license or
- 2 other authorization to practice or perform a specific occupation in this state regulated by this
- 3 chapter: Provided, That the provisions of this article do not apply to §30-1C-1 et seq.; §30-2-1 et
- 4 <u>seq., §30-3-1 et seq.; §30-3E-1 et seq.; §30-3F-1 et seq.; §30-4-1 et seq.; §30-4A-1 et seq.; §30-</u>
- 5 4B-1 et seq.; §30-5-1 et seq.; §30-7-1 et seq.; §30-7A-1 et seq.; §30-7F-1 et seq.; §30-8-1 et
- 6 <u>seg.; §30-14-1 et seg.; §30-14A-1 et seg.; §30-15-1 et seg.; §30-16-1 et seg.; §30-18-1 et </u>
- 7 <u>seq.; §30-20-1 et seq.; §30-23-1 et seq.; §30-24-1 et seq.; §30-29-1 et seq.; §30-32-1 et </u>
- 8 seq.; §30-32A-1 et seq.; and §30-41-1 et seq. of this code
- 9 This article may be known and cited as the "RECAP Act."

§30-1F-2. Definitions.

- 1 The words defined in this section have the meanings given them for purposes of this article
- 2 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.
- 3 "Board" means a government agency, board, department, or other government entity that
- 4 <u>regulates a lawful occupation and issues an occupational license or other authorization to practice</u>
- 5 to an individual.

6 "Lawful occupation" means a course of conduct, pursuit, or profession that includes the 7 sale of goods or services that are not themselves illegal to sell irrespective of whether the 8 individual selling them is subject to an occupational license. 9 "Occupational license" is a nontransferable authorization in law for an individual to perform 10 or practice a lawful occupation based on meeting personal qualifications established by the 11 Legislature. In an occupation for which a license is required, it is illegal for an individual who does 12 not possess a valid occupational license to perform or practice the occupation. 13 "Other authorization to practice" is a nontransferable acknowledgment, other than a 14 license, by a state government or board that is provided to an individual asserting that the individual has met the educational and examination requirements to engage in a lawful 15 16 occupation. 17 "Other state" or "another state" means any United States territory or state in the United 18 States other than West Virginia. 19 "Scope of practice" means the procedures, actions, processes, and work that a person 20 may perform under an occupational license or other authorization to practice issued in this state. §30-1F-3. Occupational license or other authorization to practice. 1 (a) Notwithstanding any other law, the board shall issue an occupational license or other 2 authorization to practice to a person upon application, if all the following apply: 3 (1) The person holds a valid occupational license or other authorization to practice in another state in a lawful occupation with a similar scope of practice and with education, 4 5 experience, and examination requirements for licensure or authorization to practice similar to 6 those of this state, as determined by the board in this state; 7 (2) The person has held the occupational license or other authorization to practice in the 8 state where he or she holds a valid license or other authorization to practice for at least one year; 9 (3) The person has met all educational and examination requirements for occupational 10 licensure or other authorization to practice in the state where he or she holds a valid license;

11 (4) The person is in good standing with the board in every other state where he or she 12 holds a valid license; 13 (5) The person has established residency as a West Virginia resident as defined by §11-14 21-7(a) of this code: *Provided*, That any person offering telehealth services pursuant to §30-1-26 15 of this code does not need to meet the residency requirements; 16 (6) The person does not have a disqualifying criminal record as determined by the board 17 in this state; 18 (7) The person has never had his or her license or other authorization to practice revoked 19 by the board in another state because of negligence or intentional misconduct related to the 20 person's work in the occupation; 21 (8) The person did not surrender an occupational license or other authorization to practice 22 because of negligence or intentional misconduct related to the person's work in the occupation in 23 another state; 24 (9) The person does not have a complaint, allegation, or investigation pending before a 25 board in another state. If the person has a complaint, allegation, or investigation pending, the 26 board in this state shall not issue or deny an occupational license or other authorization to practice 27 to the person until the complaint, allegation, or investigation is resolved; and 28 (10) The person pays all applicable fees and meets all applicable bonding requirements 29 in this state. 30 (b) If West Virginia requires an occupational license to lawfully work in a profession, and 31 another state does not issue an occupational license for the same profession and instead issues 32 another authorization to practice, West Virginia shall issue an occupational license to the person 33 if the person otherwise satisfies subsection (a) of this section. 34 (c) Any person issued a license under this article must comply with all relevant continuing 35 education requirements to renew a license established by the board and any other rule 36 promulgated by the board as provided by §30-1F-8 of this code.

§30-1F-4. Work experience.

1	Notwithstanding any other law, the board shall issue an occupational license or other
2	authorization to practice to a person upon application based on work experience in another state,
3	if all the following apply:
4	(1) The person worked in a state that does not use an occupational license or other
5	authorization to practice that regulates a lawful occupation, but West Virginia uses an
6	occupational license or other authorization to practice that regulates a lawful occupation with a
7	similar scope of practice, as determined by the board;
8	(2) The person worked for at least two years in the lawful occupation and has acquired
9	experience demonstrating knowledge and proficiency in the occupation similar to that which may
10	be achieved through compliance with the education and examination requirements to practice of
11	this state, as determined by the board;
12	(3) The person has taken and passed any required national examinations to lawfully
13	practice the occupation or use a title in connection with an occupation in another state; and
14	(4) The person satisfies §30-1F-3(a)(5), §30-1F-3(a)(6), and §30-1F-3(a)(10) of this code.
	§30-1F-5. State law examination.
1	A board may require a person to pass a jurisprudential examination specific to relevant
2	West Virginia laws that regulate the occupation if an occupational license or other authorization
3	to practice in this state requires a person to pass such examination for original licensure.
	§30-1F-6. Decision.
1	The board will provide the person with a written decision issuing or denying a license within
2	60 days after receiving a complete application.
	S20 4F.7. Appeal

§30-1F-7. Appeal.

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- 1 (a) The person may appeal the board's decision to a court of general jurisdiction in the county where the person resides.
 - (b) The person may appeal the board's:

4	(1) Denial of an occupational license or other authorization to practice;
5	(2) Determination of the occupation;
6	(3) Determination of the similarity of the scope of practice of the occupational license or
7	other authorization to practice; or
8	(4) Other determinations under this article.
	§30-1F-8. State laws and jurisdiction.
1	A person who obtains an occupational license or other authorization to practice pursuant
2	to this article is subject to:
3	(1) The laws regulating the occupation in this state; and
4	(2) The jurisdiction of the board in this state.
	§30-1F-9. Limitations.
1	(a) An occupational license or other authorization to practice issued pursuant to this article
2	is valid only in West Virginia. It does not make the person eligible to work in another state under
3	an interstate compact or reciprocity agreement unless otherwise provided in law.
4	(b) Nothing in this article prevents West Virginia from entering into a licensing compact or
5	reciprocity agreement with another state, foreign province, or foreign country.
6	(c) Nothing in this article prevents West Virginia from recognizing occupational credentials
7	issued by a foreign province, foreign country, international organization, or other entity.
	§30-1F-10. Cost for application.
1	The board may charge a fee to the person to recoup its costs. The fee may not exceed
2	the cost of an application for original licensure charged by the board. Any application for renewing
3	a license after obtaining a license under this article shall comply with the board's established
4	renewal procedures and fee schedule.
	§30-1F-11. Preemption.
1	This article preempts laws by township, municipal, county, and other governments in the
2	state which regulate occupational licenses and other authorization to practice

§30-1F-12. Rulemaking.

- 1 Boards affected by these provisions may promulgate rules pursuant to §29A-3-1 et seq.
- 2 of this code to carry out the provisions of this article.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to acknowledge occupational licensing credentials from other states when the person is licensed or certified to work in a profession in another state but becomes a West Virginia resident and needs to quickly get back to work in West Virginia. The bill provides for definitions. The bill provides for an application method for persons with a valid license in another state to be licensed in this state. The bill provides that a person applying for licensure in this state has worked in the licensed occupation for at least one year. The bill provides for other criteria a person must satisfy when applying for licensure in this state. The bill establishes that an applicant seeking licensure in this state may not have ever had a license revoked or suspended in another state. The bill provides that an applicant seeking licensure in this state may not have any pending investigations or disciplinary proceedings in another state. The bill provides that the boards in every state where a person is licensed hold the applicant in good standing for licensure in this state. The bill provides that an applicant pay all applicable fees. The bill provides that an applicant meet all state bonding requirements for licensure in this state. The bill provides for an application fee that may be assessed by the board; providing for 60 days for a board to take action on a completed application. The bill provides for an appeal mechanism for a person to appeal any decision of a board relating to occupational licensure. The bill provides for state law preemption against any township, municipality, county, or other government to regulate occupational licensure. The bill provides for certain exempted professions. Finally, the bill provides for rulemaking.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.