

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 510**

By Senator Chapman

[Introduced January 20, 2026; referred  
to the Committee on the Workforce; and then to the  
Committee on the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §17A-6-6, §19-2C-5b, §19-23-8, §21-1-6, §21-5-5c, §21-14-6, §21-  
2 16-7, §29-3B-4, §29-3C-4, §29-3D-6, §30-1-24, §30-5-9, §30-5-11a, §30-6-8, §30-6-17,  
3 §30-20-8a, §30-32-10a, §30-36-10, §31-17A-5, §32A-2-8, §33-13C-3, and §33-13C-4 of  
4 the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating generally to the use of criminal  
5 records as disqualification from initial licensure or other authorization to practice a  
6 profession or occupation; prohibiting licensing authorities from disqualifying an applicant  
7 from initial licensure because of a prior criminal conviction that remains unreversed unless  
8 that conviction is for a crime that directly and specifically relates to the activity requiring  
9 licensure such that granting the applicant licensure would pose a direct and substantial risk  
10 to the public because the applicant has not been rehabilitated; providing factors for a  
11 licensing authority to determine whether a criminal conviction directly and specifically  
12 relates to a profession or occupation; clarifying that a licensing authority may not disqualify  
13 an applicant from initial licensure because of a prior criminal conviction if certain criteria are  
14 met; prohibiting consideration of good moral character or crimes of moral turpitude as a  
15 basis for disqualifying applicant for initial licensure; authorizing an individual with a criminal  
16 record who has not previously held a license from the licensing authority to petition the  
17 authority for a determination of whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify the  
18 individual from obtaining a license; clarifying that these requirements do not apply to  
19 discipline of licensees or reinstatement of a license following discipline; prohibiting a  
20 licensing authority from considering, or from requiring, an individual to disclose an arrest  
21 not followed by conviction in an application for initial licensure or determination of  
22 qualification for license; and requiring licensing authorities to update licensure forms,  
23 relevant public-facing documents, and website.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**CHAPTER 17A. MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION, REGISTRATION,**

## **CERTIFICATE OF TITLE, AND ANTITHEFT PROVISIONS.**

## **ARTICLE 6. LICENSING OF DEALERS AND WRECKERS OR DISMANTLERS; SPECIAL PLATES; TEMPORARY PLATES OR MARKERS.**

**§17A-6-6. Refusal or issuance of license certificate; license certificate not transferable.**

(a) Upon the review of the application and all other information before him or her, the commissioner may make and enter an order denying an application for a license certificate and the license certificate sought. A denial and refusal are final and conclusive unless an appeal is made in accordance with the provisions of rules proposed for legislative approval in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code. The commissioner shall make and enter an order denying or refusing a license, if the commissioner finds that the applicant (individually, if an individual, or the partners, if a co-partnership, or the officers and directors, if a corporation):

(1) Has failed to furnish the required bond unless otherwise exempt under the provisions of

§17A-6-2a of this code;

(2) Has failed to furnish the required certificate of insurance;

(3) Has knowingly made false statement of a material fact in his or her application;

(4) Has habitually defaulted on financial obligations in this state or any other state or  
nation;

(5) Has been convicted of a felony: *Provided*, That the commissioner shall apply §17A-6-6(d) of this code in determining subsections (c) and (d) of this section to determine whether an applicant's prior criminal convictions bear a rational nexus directly and causally relate to the license being sought;

(6) So far as can be ascertained, has not complied with, and will not comply with, the  
aution and title laws of this state or any other state or jurisdiction;

(7) Does not or will not have or maintain at each place of business, subject to the  
application contained in §17A-6-1(a)(17) of this code with respect to a new motor vehicle dealer

22 (an established place of business as defined for the business in question) in that section;

23 (8) Has been convicted of any fraudulent act in connection with the business of new motor

24 vehicle dealer, used motor vehicle dealer, house trailer dealer, trailer dealer, recreational vehicle

25 dealer, motorcycle dealer, used parts dealer, or wrecker or dismantler in this state or any other

26 state or jurisdiction: *Provided*, That the commissioner shall apply §17A-6-6(c) and §17A-6-6(d) of

27 this code in determining subsections (c) and (d) of this section to determine whether an applicant's

28 prior criminal convictions bear a rational nexus directly and specifically relate to the license being

29 sought;

30 (9) Has done any act or has failed or refused to perform any duty for which the license

31 certificate sought could be suspended or revoked were it then issued and outstanding;

32 (10) Is not age 18 years or older;

33 (11) Is delinquent in the payment of any taxes owed to the United States, the State of West

34 Virginia, or any political subdivision of the state;

35 (12) Has been denied a license in another state or has been the subject of license

36 revocation or suspension in another state;

37 (13) Has committed any action in another state which, if it had been committed in this state,

38 would be grounds for denial and refusal of the application for a license certificate;

39 (14) Has failed to pay any civil penalty assessed by this state or any other state;

40 (15) Has failed to reimburse, when ordered, any claim against the ~~dealer recovery fund~~

41 Dealer Recovery Fund as prescribed in §17A-6-2a of this code; or

42 (16) Has failed to comply with the provisions of §17A-6E-1 *et seq.* of this code pertaining to

43 the employment of licensed salespersons.

44 Otherwise, the commissioner shall issue to the applicant the appropriate license certificate

45 which entitles the licensee to engage in the business of new motor vehicle dealer, used motor

46 vehicle dealer, house trailer dealer, trailer dealer, recreational vehicle dealer, motorcycle dealer,

47 used parts dealer, or wrecker or dismantler, as the case may be.

48 (b) A license certificate issued in accordance with the provisions of this article is not  
49 transferable.

50 (c) The commissioner may not disqualify an applicant from initial licensure because of a  
51 prior criminal conviction that remains unreversed unless that conviction is for a crime that bears a  
52 rational nexus directly and specifically relates to the duties and responsibilities of the activity  
53 requiring licensure such that granting the applicant licensure would pose a direct and substantial  
54 risk to the public because the applicant has not been rehabilitated. In determining whether a  
55 criminal conviction bears a rational nexus directly and specifically relates to a profession or  
56 occupation, the commissioner shall consider, at a minimum:

57 (1) The nature and seriousness of the crime for which the individual was convicted;

58 (2) The passage of time since the commission of the crime;

59 (3) The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the  
60 duties and discharge the responsibilities of the profession or occupation; and

61 (4) Any evidence of rehabilitation or treatment undertaken by the individual, including the  
62 following, if applicable:

63 (A) The age of the individual when he or she committed the offense;

64 (B) The completion of the criminal sentence:

65 (C) A certificate of rehabilitation or good conduct:

66                   (D) Completion of, or active participation in, rehabilitative mental health, drug, or alcohol  
67                   treatment:

68 (E) Testimonials and recommendations, which may include a progress report from the  
69 individual's probation or parole officer:

## 70 (F) Education and training:

71 (G) Employment history relevant to the license being sought:

72 (H) Whether the individual will be bonded in the occupation; and

73 (I) Other evidence of rehabilitation the individual submits to the commissioner.

74 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, ~~if an applicant is~~

75 ~~disqualified from licensure because of a prior criminal conviction, the commissioner shall permit~~

76 ~~the applicant to apply for initial licensure if: the commissioner may not disqualify an applicant from~~

77 ~~initial licensure because of a prior criminal conviction if:~~

78 (1) A period of five years has elapsed from the date of conviction or the date of release from

79 incarceration, whichever is later;

80 (2) The individual has not been convicted of any other crime during the period of time

81 following the disqualifying offense; and

82 (3) The conviction was not for an offense of a violent or sexual nature: *Provided*, That a

83 conviction for an offense of a violent or sexual nature may subject an individual to a longer period

84 of disqualification from licensure, to be determined by the commissioner.

85 (e) An individual with a criminal record who has not previously ~~applied for licensure held a~~

86 ~~license under this section~~ may petition the commissioner at any time for a determination of

87 whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from obtaining a license. This

88 petition shall include sufficient details about the individual's criminal record to enable the

89 commissioner to identify the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, the date of the conviction,

90 and the specific nature of the conviction. The commissioner shall provide the determination within

91 60 days of receiving the petition from the applicant. The commissioner may charge a fee to recoup

92 costs for each petition.

93 (f) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter to the contrary, an individual may not

94 be required to disclose, nor may the commissioner consider, an arrest not followed by a conviction

95 in an application for initial licensure or a determination under subsection (e) of this section.

96 (g) The commissioner shall update his or her licensure forms, other relevant public-facing

97 documents, and website to explain the requirements of this section, including, but not limited to,

98 the availability of the process set forth in subsection (e) of this section.

## CHAPTER 19. AGRICULTURE.

## **ARTICLE 2C. AUCTIONEERS.**

### **§19-2C-5b. Background checks required.**

5 (b) The applicant shall meet all requirements necessary to accomplish the state and  
6 national criminal history record check, including:

7 (1) Submitting fingerprints for the purposes set forth in this subsection; and

11 (c) The results of the state and national criminal history record check may not be released  
12 to or by a private entity except:

13 (1) To the individual who is the subject of the criminal history record check;

14 (2) With the written authorization of the individual who is the subject of the criminal history  
15 record check; or

16 (3) Pursuant to a court order.

17 (d) The criminal history record check and related records are not public records for the  
18 purposes of chapter 29B of this code.

19 (e) The applicant shall pay the actual costs of the fingerprinting and criminal history record  
20 check.

21 (f) The commissioner may not disqualify an applicant for initial licensure, certification, or  
22 registration because of a prior criminal conviction that has not been reversed unless that

23 conviction is for a crime that bears a rational nexus directly and specifically relates to the duties  
24 and responsibilities of the occupation requiring licensure such that granting the applicant licensure  
25 would pose a direct and substantial risk to the public because the applicant has not been  
26 rehabilitated. In determining whether a criminal conviction directly and specifically relates to a  
27 profession or occupation, the commissioner shall consider, at a minimum:

28       (1) The nature and seriousness of the crime for which the individual was convicted;  
29       (2) The passage of time since the commission of the crime;  
30       (3) The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the  
31 duties and discharge the responsibilities of the profession or occupation; and  
32       (4) Any evidence of rehabilitation or treatment undertaken by the individual, including the  
33 following, if applicable:

34           (A) The age of the individual when he or she committed the offense;  
35           (B) The completion of the criminal sentence;  
36           (C) A certificate of rehabilitation or good conduct;  
37           (D) Completion of, or active participation in, rehabilitative mental health, drug, or alcohol  
38 treatment;  
39           (E) Testimonials and recommendations, which may include a progress report from the  
40 individual's probation or parole officer;  
41           (F) Education and training;  
42           (G) Employment history relevant to the license being sought;  
43           (H) Whether the individual will be bonded in the occupation; and  
44           (I) Other evidence of rehabilitation the individual submits to the commissioner.

45       (g) The commissioner may not use crimes involving moral turpitude in making licensure,  
46 certification or registration determinations Because the terms "moral turpitude" and "good moral  
47 character" are vague and subject to inconsistent applications, the commissioner may not rely upon

48 the description of a crime for which an applicant has been convicted as one of "moral turpitude" or  
49 the applicant lacking "good moral character" as a basis for denying licensure.

50 ~~(h) If an applicant is disqualified for licensure, certification or registration because of a~~  
51 ~~criminal conviction that has not been reversed, the commissioner shall afford the applicant the~~  
52 ~~opportunity to reapply for licensure, certification or registration after the expiration of five years~~  
53 ~~from the date of conviction or date of release from the penalty that was imposed, whichever is~~  
54 ~~later, if the individual has not been convicted of any other crime during that period of time:~~  
55 ~~Provided, That convictions for violent or sexual offenses or offenses shall subject an individual to a~~  
56 ~~longer period of disqualification, to be determined by the individual board or licensing authority~~  
57 Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, the commissioner may not  
58 disqualify an applicant from licensure because of a prior criminal conviction if:

59 (1) A period of five years has elapsed from the date of conviction or the date of release from  
60 incarceration, whichever is later;

61 (2) The individual has not been convicted of any other crime during the period of time  
62 following the disqualifying offense; and

63 (3) The conviction was not for an offense of a violent or sexual nature: Provided, That a  
64 conviction for an offense of a violent or sexual nature may subject an individual to a longer period  
65 of disqualification from licensure, to be determined by the commissioner.

66 (i) An individual with a criminal record who has not previously applied for licensure held a  
67 license, certification, or registration under this section may petition the commissioner at any time  
68 for a determination of whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from  
69 obtaining a license or other authorization. This petition shall include sufficient details about the  
70 individual's criminal record to enable the commissioner to identify the jurisdiction where the  
71 conviction occurred, the date of the conviction, and the specific nature of the conviction. The  
72 commissioner shall inform the individual of his or her standing within 60 days of receiving the

73 petition from the applicant. The licensing authority may charge a fee to recoup its costs for each  
74 petition.

75 (j) Nothing in this section alters the standards and procedures the commissioner uses for  
76 evaluating licensure, certification, or registration renewals.

77 (k) The commissioner shall propose rules or amendments to existing rules for legislative  
78 approval to comply with the provisions of this section pursuant to the provisions of §29A-3-1 et  
79 seq. of this code. ~~within the applicable time limit to be considered by the Legislature during its~~  
80 ~~regular session in the year 2020.~~

81 (l) The provisions of this section enacted during the 2019 Regular Session of the  
82 Legislature shall not apply to current licensees who maintain active licensure, but shall apply to  
83 individuals currently holding an apprentice auctioneer license who are applying for an auctioneer  
84 license, or to any current license holder whose license lapses and who is required to reapply.

85 (m) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter to the contrary, an individual may  
86 not be required to disclose, nor may a board consider, an arrest not followed by a conviction in an  
87 application for initial licensure or a determination under subsection (i) of this section.

88 (n) The commissioner shall update his or her licensure forms, other relevant public-facing  
89 documents, and website to explain the requirements of this section, including, but not limited to,  
90 the availability of the process set forth in subsection (i) of this section.

## **ARTICLE 23. HORSE AND DOG RACING.**

### **§19-23-8. Consideration of application for license or permit; issuance or denial; contents of license or permit; grounds for denial of application; determination of racing dates; license or permit not transferable or assignable; limitation on license; validity of permit.**

1 (a) The Racing Commission shall promptly consider any application for a license or permit,  
2 as the case may be. Based upon such application and all other information before it, the Racing  
3 Commission shall make and enter an order either approving or denying the application. The

4 application may be denied for any reason specified in subsection (b) of this section. If an  
5 application for a license is approved, the Racing Commission shall issue a license to conduct a  
6 horse or dog race meeting and shall designate on the face of the license the kind or type of horse  
7 or dog racing for which the same license is issued, the racing association to which the same  
8 license is issued, the dates upon which the horse or dog race meeting is to be held or conducted  
9 (which may be any weekdays, or weeknights, including Sundays), the location of the horse or dog  
10 racetrack, place, or enclosure where the horse or dog race meeting is to be held or conducted, and  
11 other information as the Racing Commission shall consider considers proper. If an application for a  
12 permit is approved, the Racing Commission shall issue a permit and shall designate on the face of  
13 the permit such information as the Racing Commission considers proper.

14 (b) The Racing Commission may deny the application and refuse to issue the license or  
15 permit, as the case may be, which denial and refusal is final and conclusive, unless a hearing is  
16 demanded in accordance with the provisions of §19-23-16 of this code, if the Racing Commission  
17 finds that the applicant individually, if an individual, or the partners or members, if a partnership,  
18 firm, or association, or the owners and directors, if a corporation:

19 (1) Has knowingly made false statement of a material fact in the application or has  
20 knowingly failed to disclose any information called for in the application;

21 (2) Is or has been guilty of any corrupt or fraudulent act, practice, or conduct in connection  
22 with a horse or dog race meeting in this or any other state;

23 (3) Has been convicted, within 10 years prior to the date of the application, of an offense  
24 which under the law of this state, of any other state, or of the United States of America shall  
25 ~~constitute~~ constitutes a felony: *Provided*, That the Racing Commission shall apply §19-23-8(g)  
26 and §19-23-8(h) of this code in determining whether an applicant's prior criminal convictions bear  
27 a rational nexus directly and specifically relate to the license or permit being sought pursuant to  
28 subsection (g) of this section;

29 (4) Has failed to comply with the provisions of this article or any reasonable rules of the

30      Racing Commission;

31            (5) Has had a license to hold or conduct a horse or dog race meeting or a permit to  
32      participate therein in the meeting denied for just cause, suspended, or revoked in any other state;

33            (6) Has defaulted in the payment of any obligation or debt due to this state under the  
34      provisions of this article;

35            (7) Is, if a corporation, neither incorporated under the laws of this state nor qualified to do  
36      business within this state;

37            (8) In the case of an application for a license, has failed to furnish bond or other adequate  
38      security, if the same is required by the Racing Commission under the provisions of §19-23-7 of this  
39      code;

40            (9) In the case of an application for a permit, is unqualified to perform the duties required for  
41      the permit sought; or

42            (10) In the case of an application for a permit, is, for just cause, determined to be  
43      undesirable to perform the duties required of the applicant.

44            (c) In issuing licenses and fixing dates for horse or dog race meetings at the various horse  
45      racetracks and dog racetracks in this state, the Racing Commission shall consider the horse  
46      racing circuits and dog racing circuits with which the horse racetracks and dog racetracks in this  
47      state are associated or contiguous to and shall also consider dates which are calculated to  
48      increase the tax revenues accruing from horse racing and dog racing.

49            (d) A license issued under the provisions of this article is neither transferable nor  
50      assignable to any other racing association and may not permit the holding or conducting of a horse  
51      or dog race meeting at any horse or dog racetrack, place, or enclosure not specified thereon.  
52      However, if the specified horse or dog racetrack, place, or enclosure becomes unsuitable for the  
53      horse or dog race meeting because of flood, fire, or other catastrophe, or cannot be used for any  
54      reason, the Racing Commission may, upon application, authorize the horse or dog race meeting,  
55      or any remaining portion thereof, to be conducted at any other racetrack, place, or enclosure

56 available for that purpose, provided that the owner of the racetrack, place, or enclosure willingly  
57 consents to the use.

58 (e) No type of horse racing or dog racing shall be conducted by a licensee at any race  
59 meeting other than that type for which a license was issued.

60 (f) Each permit issued under the provisions of this section shall be for a period of one year,  
61 unless approved otherwise by the commission. Effective January 1, 2012, each permit shall be  
62 renewed according to the following schedule: Permits issued to persons whose date of birth is  
63 January 1 through and including April 30 shall be renewed no later than April 30 of each year;  
64 permits issued to persons whose date of birth is May 1 through and including August 31 shall be  
65 renewed no later than August 31 of each year; and permits issued to persons whose date of birth is  
66 September 1 through and including December 31 shall be renewed no later than December 31 of  
67 each year. Each permit shall be valid at all horse or dog race meetings during the period for which  
68 it was issued unless it be sooner suspended or revoked in accordance with the provisions of this  
69 article. A permit issued under the provisions of this article is neither transferable nor assignable to  
70 any other person.

71 (g) The Racing Commission may not disqualify an applicant from an initial license or permit  
72 because of a prior criminal conviction that remains unreversed, unless that conviction is for a crime  
73 that bears a rational nexus directly and specifically relates to the duties and responsibilities of the  
74 activity requiring a license or permit such that granting the applicant licensure would pose a direct  
75 and substantial risk to the public because the applicant has not been rehabilitated. In determining  
76 whether a criminal conviction bears a rational nexus directly and specifically relates to a profession  
77 or occupation, the Racing Commission shall consider at a minimum:

78 (1) The nature and seriousness of the crime for which the individual was convicted;  
79 (2) The passage of time since the commission of the crime;  
80 (3) The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the  
81 duties and discharge the responsibilities of the profession or occupation; and

(4) Any evidence of rehabilitation or treatment undertaken by the individual, including the following, if applicable:

(A) The age of the individual when he or she committed the offense;

(B) The completion of the criminal sentence;

(C) A certificate of rehabilitation or good conduct;

(D) Completion of, or active participation in, rehabilitative mental health, drug, or alcohol

### treatment;

(E) Testimonials and recommendations, which may include a progress report from the individual's probation or parole officer;

**(F) Education and training;**

(G) Employment history relevant to the license being sought;

(H) Whether the applicant will be bonded in the occupation; and

(I) Other evidence of rehabilitation the applicant submits to the commissioner.

(h) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, if an applicant is disqualified from a license or permit because of a prior criminal conviction, the commissioner shall not require the applicant to apply for an initial license or permit if: the commissioner may not disqualify an applicant from initial licensure because of a prior criminal conviction if:

(1) A period of five years has elapsed from the date of conviction or the date of release from  
incarceration, whichever is later:

(2) The individual has not been convicted of any other crime during the period of time preceding the disqualifying offense; and

(3) The conviction was not for an offense of a violent or sexual nature: *Provided*, That a conviction for an offense of a violent or sexual nature may subject an individual to a longer period of disqualification from licensure, to be determined by the commissioner.

(i) An individual with a criminal record who has not previously applied for held a license or under this section may petition the Racing Commission at any time for a determination of

108 whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from obtaining a license or  
109 permit. This petition shall include sufficient details about the individual's criminal record to enable  
110 the Racing Commission to identify the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, the date of the  
111 conviction, and the specific nature of the conviction. The Racing Commission shall provide the  
112 determination within 60 days of receiving the petition from the applicant. The Racing Commission  
113 may charge a fee to recoup its costs for each petition.

114 (j) The Racing Commission may propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with  
115 the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code which establish the criteria for the approval or denial  
116 of a license or permit.

117 (k) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter to the contrary, an individual may  
118 not be required to disclose, nor may the Racing Commission consider, an arrest not followed by a  
119 conviction in an application for initial licensure or a determination under subsection (i) of this  
120 section.

121 (l) The Racing Commission shall update its licensure forms, other relevant public-facing  
122 documents, and website to explain the requirements of this section, including, but not limited to,  
123 the availability of the process set forth in subsection (i) of this section.

## CHAPTER 21. LABOR

### ARTICLE 1. DIVISION OF LABOR.

#### **§21-1-6. Use of criminal records as disqualification from authorization to engage in licensed profession or occupation.**

1 (a) The commissioner may not disqualify an applicant from initial licensure, as required in  
2 this chapter, because of a prior criminal conviction that remains unreversed unless that conviction  
3 is for a crime that bears a rational nexus directly and specifically relates to the duties and  
4 responsibilities of the activity requiring licensure such that granting the applicant licensure would  
5 pose a direct and substantial risk to the public because the applicant has not been rehabilitated. In

6 determining whether a criminal conviction bears a rational nexus a profession or occupation  
7 making its determination, the commissioner shall consider, at a minimum:

8 (1) The nature and seriousness of the crime for which the individual was convicted;  
9 (2) The passage of time since the commission of the crime;  
10 (3) The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the  
11 duties and discharge the responsibilities of the profession or occupation; and  
12 (4) Any evidence of rehabilitation or treatment undertaken by the individual, including the

13 following, if applicable:

14 (A) The age of the individual when he or she committed the offense;  
15 (B) The completion of the criminal sentence;  
16 (C) A certificate of rehabilitation or good conduct;  
17 (D) Completion of, or active participation in, rehabilitative mental health, drug, or alcohol  
18 treatment;

19 (E) Testimonials and recommendations, which may include a progress report from the  
20 individual's probation or parole officer;

21 (F) Education and training;  
22 (G) Employment history relevant to the license being sought;  
23 (H) Whether the individual will be bonded in the occupation; and  
24 (I) Other evidence of rehabilitation the individual submits to the commissioner.

25 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, if an applicant is  
26 disqualified from licensure because of a prior criminal conviction, the commissioner shall permit  
27 the applicant to apply for initial licensure if: the commissioner may not disqualify an applicant from  
28 initial licensure because of a prior criminal conviction if:

29 (1) A period of five years has elapsed from the date of conviction or the date of release from  
30 incarceration, whichever is later;

31 (2) The individual has not been convicted of any other crime during the period of time

32 following the disqualifying offense; and

33 (3) The conviction was not for an offense of a violent or sexual nature: *Provided*, That a  
34 conviction for an offense of a violent or sexual nature may subject an individual to a longer period  
35 of disqualification from licensure, to be determined by the commissioner.

36 (c) An individual with a criminal record who has not previously ~~applied for licensure~~ held a  
37 license under this section may petition the commissioner at any time for a determination of  
38 whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from obtaining a license. This  
39 petition shall include sufficient details about the individual's criminal record to enable the  
40 commissioner to identify the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, the date of the conviction,  
41 and the specific nature of the conviction. The commissioner shall provide the determination within  
42 60 days of receiving the petition from the applicant. The commissioner may charge a fee to recoup  
43 its costs for each petition.

44 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter to the contrary, an individual may  
45 not be required to disclose, nor may the commission consider, an arrest not followed by a  
46 conviction in an application for initial licensure or a determination under subsection (c) of this  
47 section.

48 (e) The commissioner shall update his or her licensure forms, other relevant public-facing  
49 documents, and website to explain the requirements of this section, including, but not limited to,  
50 the availability of the process set forth in subsection (c) of this section.

## **ARTICLE 5. WAGE PAYMENT AND COLLECTION.**

### **§21-5-5c. License required for psychophysiological detection of deception examiners; qualifications; promulgation of rules governing administration of psychophysiological detection of deception examinations.**

1 (a) No person, firm, or corporation shall administer a psychophysiological detection of  
2 deception examination, lie detector, or other similar examination utilizing mechanical or electronic  
3 measures of physiological reactions to evaluate truthfulness without holding a current valid license

4 to do so as issued by the Commissioner of Labor. No examination shall be administered by a  
5 licensed corporation except by an officer or employee thereof who is also licensed.

6 (b) A person is qualified to receive a license as an examiner if he or she:

7 (1) Is at least 21 years of age;

8 (2) Is a citizen of the United States;

9 (3) Has not been convicted of a felony: *Provided*, That the commissioner shall apply §21-1-  
10 6 of this code to determine if whether the prior criminal conviction bears a rational nexus directly  
11 and specifically relates to the license being sought;

12 (4) Has not been released or discharged with other than honorable conditions from any of  
13 the armed services of the United States or that of any other nation;

14 (5) Has passed an examination conducted by the Commissioner of Labor or under his or  
15 her supervision to determine his or her competency to obtain a license to practice as an examiner;

16 (6) Has satisfactorily completed not less than six months of internship training; and

17 (7) Has met any other qualifications of education or training established by the  
18 Commissioner of Labor in his or her sole discretion which qualifications are to be at least as  
19 stringent as those recommended by the American Polygraph Association.

20 (c) The Commissioner of Labor may designate and administer any test he or she considers  
21 appropriate to those persons applying for a license to administer psychophysiological detection of  
22 deception, lie detector, or similar examination. The test shall be designed to ensure that the  
23 applicant is thoroughly familiar with the code of ethics of the American Polygraph Association and  
24 has been trained in accordance with association rules. The test must also include a rigorous  
25 examination of the applicant's knowledge of and familiarity with all aspects of operating  
26 psychophysiological detection of deception equipment and administering psychophysiological  
27 detection of deception examinations.

28 (d) The license to administer psychophysiological detection of deception, lie detector, or  
29 similar examinations to any person shall be issued for a period of one year. It may be reissued from

30 year to year. The licenses to be issued are:

31 (1) "Class I license" which authorizes an individual to administer psychophysiological  
32 detection of deception examinations for all purposes which are permissible under the provisions of  
33 this article and other applicable laws and rules.

34 (2) "Class II license" which authorizes an individual who is a full-time employee of a law-  
35 enforcement agency to administer psychophysiological detection of deception examinations to its  
36 employees or prospective employees only.

37 (e) The Commissioner of Labor shall charge an annual fee to be established by legislative  
38 rule. All fees paid pursuant to this section shall be paid to the Commissioner of Labor and  
39 deposited in an appropriated special revenue account hereby created in the State Treasury to be  
40 known as the Psychophysiological Examiners Fund and expended for the implementation and  
41 enforcement of this section. Through June 30, 2019, amounts collected which are found from time  
42 to time to exceed funds needed for the purposes set forth in this section may be utilized by the  
43 commissioner as needed to meet the division's funding obligations: *Provided*, That beginning July  
44 1, 2019, amounts collected may not be utilized by the commissioner as needed to meet the  
45 division's funding obligations. In addition to any other information required, an application for a  
46 license shall include the applicant's Social Security number.

47 (f) The Commissioner of Labor shall propose rules for legislative approval in accordance  
48 with §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code governing the administration of psychophysiological detection of  
49 deception, lie detector, or similar examination to any person: *Provided*, That all applicable rules in  
50 effect on the effective date of §21-5-5a, §21-5-5b, §21-5-5c, and §21-5-5d of this code will remain  
51 in effect until amended, withdrawn, revoked, repealed, or replaced. The legislative rules shall  
52 include:

53 (1) The type and amount of training or schooling necessary for a person before which he or  
54 she may be licensed to administer or interpret a psychophysiological detection of deception, lie  
55 detector, or similar examination;

56 (2) Testing requirements, including the designation of the test to be administered to  
57 persons applying for licensure;

58 (3) Standards of accuracy which shall be met by machines or other devices to be used in  
59 psychophysiological detection of deception, lie detector, or similar examination;

60 (4) The conditions under which a psychophysiological detection of deception, lie detector,  
61 or similar examination may be administered;

62 (5) Fees for licenses, renewals of licenses, and other services provided by the  
63 commissioner;

64 (6) Any other qualifications or requirements, including continuing education, established by  
65 the commissioner for the issuance or renewal of licenses; and

66 (7) Any other purpose to carry out the requirements of §21-5-5a, §21-5-5b, §21-5-5c, and  
67 §21-5-5d of this code.

## **ARTICLE 14. SUPERVISION OF PLUMBING WORK.**

## **§21-14-6. Denial, suspension, and revocation of license.**

1 (a) The Commissioner of Labor may deny a license to any applicant who fails to comply  
2 with the rules established by the Commissioner of Labor, or who lacks the necessary  
3 qualifications: *Provided*, That the commissioner shall apply §21-1-6 of this code to determine if  
4 whether the prior criminal conviction bears a rational nexus directly and specifically relates to the  
5 license being sought.

6 (b) The Commissioner of Labor may, upon complaint or upon his or her own inquiry, and  
7 after notice to the licensee, suspend or revoke a licensee's license if:

8 (1) The license was granted upon an application or documents supporting the application  
9 which materially misstated the terms of the applicant's qualifications or experience;

10 (2) The licensee subscribed or vouched for a material misstatement in his or her  
11 application for licensure;

12 (3) The licensee incompetently or unsafely performs plumbing work; or

13 (4) The licensee violated any statute of this state, any legislative rule or any ordinance of  
14 any municipality or county of this state which protects the consumer or public against unfair,  
15 unsafe, unlawful, or improper business practices.

## **ARTICLE 16. REGULATION OF HEATING, VENTILATING, AND COOLING WORK.**

## **§21-16-7. Denial, suspension, and revocation of license.**

1 (a) The Commissioner of Labor may deny a license to any applicant who fails to comply  
2 with the provisions of this article or the rules established by the Commissioner of Labor, or who  
3 lacks the necessary qualifications: *Provided*, That the commissioner shall apply §21-1-6 of this  
4 code to determine if whether the prior criminal conviction ~~bears a rational nexus directly and~~  
5 specifically relates to the license being sought.

6 (b) The Commissioner of Labor may, upon complaint or upon his or her own inquiry, and  
7 after notice to the licensee, suspend, or revoke a licensee's license if:

8 (1) The license was granted upon an application or documents supporting the application  
9 which materially misstated the terms of the applicant's qualifications or experience;

10 (2) The licensee subscribed or vouched for a material misstatement in his or her  
11 application for licensure;

14 (4) The licensee violated any statute of this state, any legislative rule, or any ordinance of  
15 any municipality or county of this state which protects the consumer or public against unfair,  
16 unsafe, unlawful, or improper business practices.

## CHAPTER 29. MISCELLANEOUS BOARDS AND OFFICERS.

## ARTICLE 3B. SUPERVISION OF ELECTRICIANS.

**§29-3B-4. Licenses; classes of licenses; issuance of licenses by commissioner; qualifications required for license; nontransferability and nonassignability of**

**licenses; expiration of license; renewal; reciprocity.**

1                   (a) The following classes of license may be issued by the State Fire Marshal: master  
2 electrician license, journeyman electrician license, and temporary electrician license. Additional  
3 classes of specialty electrician license may be issued by the State Fire Marshal.

4                   (b) The State Fire Marshal shall issue the appropriate class of license upon a finding that  
5 the applicant possesses the qualifications for the class of license to be issued. When considering  
6 whether an applicant possess the qualifications for the class of license, the State Fire Marshal  
7 shall consider whether an applicant's prior criminal convictions ~~bear a rational nexus on directly~~  
8 and specifically relate to the license being sought.

9                   (1) The State Fire Marshal may not disqualify an applicant from initial licensure because of  
10 a prior criminal conviction that remains unreversed unless that conviction is for a crime that ~~bears~~  
11 ~~a rational nexus directly and specifically relates to the duties and responsibilities of the activity~~  
12 ~~requiring licensure such that granting the applicant licensure would pose a direct and substantial~~  
13 ~~risk to the public because the applicant has not been rehabilitated~~. In determining whether a  
14 criminal conviction ~~bears a rational nexus directly and specifically relates~~ to a profession or  
15 occupation, the State Fire Marshal shall consider, at a minimum:

16                   (A) The nature and seriousness of the crime for which the individual was convicted;  
17                   (B) The passage of time since the commission of the crime;  
18                   (C) The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the  
19 duties and discharge the responsibilities of the profession or occupation; and  
20                   (D) Any evidence of rehabilitation or treatment undertaken by the individual, including the  
21 following, if applicable:

22                   (i) The age of the individual when he or she committed the offense;  
23                   (ii) The completion of the criminal sentence;  
24                   (iii) A certificate of rehabilitation or good conduct;  
25                   (iv) Completion of, or active participation in, rehabilitative mental health, drug, or alcohol

26     treatment;

27         (v) Testimonials and recommendations, which may include a progress report from the

28         individual's probation or parole officer;

29         (vi) Education and training;

30         (vii) Employment history relevant to the license being sought;

31         (viii) Whether the individual will be bonded in the occupation; and

32         (ix) Other evidence of rehabilitation the applicant submits to the State Fire Marshal.

33         (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, ~~if an applicant is~~

34         ~~disqualified from licensure because of a prior criminal conviction, the State Fire Marshal shall~~

35         ~~permit the applicant to apply for initial licensure if: the State Fire Marshal may not disqualify an~~

36         ~~applicant from initial licensure because of a prior criminal conviction if:~~

37             (A) A period of five years has elapsed from the date of conviction or the date of release

38             from incarceration, whichever is later;

39             (B) The individual has not been convicted of any other crime during the period of time

40             following the disqualifying offense; and

41             (C) The conviction was not for an offense of a violent or sexual nature: *Provided*, That a

42         conviction for an offense of a violent or sexual nature may subject an individual to a longer period

43         of disqualification from licensure, to be determined by the State Fire Marshal.

44         (3) An individual with a criminal record who has not previously ~~applied for licensure held a~~

45         license under this section may petition the State Fire Marshal at any time for a determination of

46         whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from obtaining a license. This

47         petition shall include sufficient details about the individual's criminal record to enable the State Fire

48         Marshal to identify the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, the date of the conviction, and

49         the specific nature of the conviction.

50         (c) The State Fire Marshal shall propose rules for legislative approval regarding

51         qualifications for testing, issuance of licenses, and renewal in accordance with the provisions of

52      §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code.

53            (d) To the extent that other jurisdictions provide for the licensing of electricians, the State  
54      Fire Marshal shall grant the same or equivalent classification of license without written  
55      examination upon satisfactory proof furnished to the State Fire Marshal that the qualifications of  
56      the applicant demonstrate that the person can perform work safely and competently and is in good  
57      standing with all other jurisdictions where he or she is licensed, and upon payment of the required  
58      fee.

59            (e) In addition to any other information required, the applicant's social security number  
60      shall be recorded on any application for a license submitted pursuant to the provisions of this  
61      section.

62            (f) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter to the contrary, an individual may not  
63      be required to disclose, nor may the State Fire Marshal consider, an arrest not followed by a  
64      conviction in an application for initial licensure or a determination under subdivision (3), subsection  
65      (b) of this section.

66            (g) The State Fire Marshal shall update his or her licensure forms, other relevant public-  
67      facing documents, and website to explain the requirements of this section, including, but not  
68      limited to, the availability of the process set forth in subdivision (b)(3) of this section.

## **ARTICLE 3C. CERTIFICATION OF ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS.**

### **§29-3C-4. Certification program; duties of the State Fire Marshal; rulemaking.**

1            (a) The State Fire Marshal shall propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with  
2      the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code to establish a program for the certification of  
3      electrical inspectors. Proposed rules shall provide: Standards and procedures for certification,  
4      including applications, examinations, fees, qualifications, procedures for investigating complaints,  
5      revoking or suspending certifications, and for renewing licenses. The State Fire Marshal is also  
6      authorized to may propose emergency rules to implement the provisions of this article: *Provided,*  
7      That the emergency rules specify an initial certification fee of \$50.

(b) The State Fire Marshal shall certify an electrical inspector upon a finding that the applicant possesses the requisite qualifications.

10 (c) When considering whether an applicant possess the qualifications for certification as an  
11 electrical inspector, the State Fire Marshal shall consider whether an applicant's prior criminal  
12 convictions bear a rational nexus on directly and specifically relates to the certification being  
13 sought.

14 (1) The State Fire Marshal may not disqualify an applicant from initial certification because  
15 of a prior criminal conviction that remains unreversed unless that conviction is for a crime that  
16 bears a rational nexus directly and specifically relates to the duties and responsibilities of the  
17 activity requiring certification such that granting the applicant licensure would pose a direct and  
18 substantial risk to the public because the applicant has not been rehabilitated. In determining  
19 whether a criminal conviction bears a rational nexus directly and specifically relates to a profession  
20 or occupation, the State Fire Marshal shall consider, at a minimum:

21 (A) The nature and seriousness of the crime for which the individual was convicted;

22 (B) The passage of time since the commission of the crime;

23 (C) The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the

24 duties and discharge the responsibilities of the profession or occupation; and

25 (D) Any evidence of rehabilitation or treatment undertaken by the individual, including the

26 following, if applicable:

**(vi) Education and training;**

(vii) Employment history relevant to the license being sought;

(viii) Whether the individual will be bonded in the occupation; and

(ix) Other evidence of rehabilitation the individual submits to the commissioner.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, if an applicant is

disqualified from certification because of a prior criminal conviction, the State Fire Marshal shall

permit the applicant to apply for initial certification if: the State Fire Marshal may not disqualify an

applicant from initial licensure because of a prior criminal conviction if:

(A) A period of five years has elapsed from the date of conviction or the date of release

from incarceration, whichever is later;

(B) The individual has not been convicted of any other crime during the period of time

following the disqualifying offense; and

(C) The conviction was not for an offense of a violent or sexual nature: *Provided*, That a

conviction for an offense of a violent or sexual nature may subject an individual to a longer period

of disqualification from certification, to be determined by the State Fire Marshal.

(3) An individual with a criminal record who has not previously applied for held a

certification under this section may petition the State Fire Marshal at any time for a determination

of whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from obtaining a

certification. This petition shall include sufficient details about the individual's criminal record to

enable the State Fire Marshal to identify the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, the date of

the conviction, and the specific nature of the conviction.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter to the contrary, an individual may

not be required to disclose, nor may the State Fire Marshal consider, an arrest not followed by a

conviction in an application for initial licensure or a determination under subdivision (3), subsection

(c) of this section.

59           (e) The State Fire Marshal shall update his or her licensure forms, other relevant public-  
60 facing documents, and website to explain the requirements of this section, including, but not  
61 limited to, the availability of the process set forth in subdivision (3), subsection (c) of this section.

## **ARTICLE 3D. SUPERVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION WORK.**

### **§29-3D-6. Denial, suspension and revocation of license.**

1           (a) The State Fire Marshal may deny a license to any applicant who fails to comply with the  
2 rules established by the State Fire Marshal, or who lacks the necessary qualifications. When  
3 considering whether an applicant possesses the qualifications for a license, the State Fire Marshal  
4 shall consider whether an applicant's prior criminal convictions ~~bear a rational nexus on~~ directly  
5 and specifically relates to the license being sought.

6           (1) The State Fire Marshal may not disqualify an applicant from initial licensure because of  
7 a prior criminal conviction that remains unreversed unless that conviction is for a crime that ~~bears~~  
8 ~~a rational nexus~~ directly and specifically relates to the duties and responsibilities of the activity  
9 requiring licensure such that granting the applicant licensure would pose a direct and substantial  
10 risk to the public because the applicant has not been rehabilitated. In determining whether a  
11 criminal conviction ~~bears a rational nexus~~ directly and specifically relates to a profession or  
12 occupation, the State Fire Marshal shall consider, at a minimum:

13           (A) The nature and seriousness of the crime for which the individual was convicted;  
14           (B) The passage of time since the commission of the crime;  
15           (C) The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the  
16 duties and discharge the responsibilities of the profession or occupation; and  
17           (D) Any evidence of rehabilitation or treatment undertaken by the individual, including the  
18 following, if applicable:

19           (i) The age of the individual when he or she committed the offense;  
20           (ii) The completion of the criminal sentence;  
21           (iii) A certificate of rehabilitation or good conduct;

22           (iv) Completion of, or active participation in, rehabilitative mental health, drug, or alcohol  
23       treatment;

24           (v) Testimonials and recommendations, which may include a progress report from the  
25       individual's probation or parole officer;

26           (vi) Education and training;

27           (vii) Employment history relevant to the license being sought;

28           (viii) Whether the individual will be bonded in the occupation; and

29           (ix) Other evidence of rehabilitation the individual submits to the State Fire Marshal.

30           (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, ~~if an applicant is~~  
31       ~~disqualified from licensure because of a prior criminal conviction, the State Fire Marshal shall~~  
32       ~~permit the applicant to apply for initial licensure if: the State Fire Marshal may not disqualify an~~  
33       ~~applicant from initial licensure because of a prior criminal conviction if:~~

34           (A) A period of five years has elapsed from the date of conviction or the date of release  
35       from incarceration, whichever is later;

36           (B) The individual has not been convicted of any other crime during the period of time  
37       following the disqualifying offense; and

38           (C) The conviction was not for an offense of a violent or sexual nature: *Provided*, That a  
39       conviction for an offense of a violent or sexual nature may subject an individual to a longer period  
40       of disqualification from licensure, to be determined by the State Fire Marshal.

41           (3) An individual with a criminal record who has not previously ~~applied for licensure held a~~  
42       license under this section may petition the State Fire Marshal at any time for a determination of  
43       whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from obtaining a license. This  
44       petition shall include sufficient details about the individual's criminal record to enable the State Fire  
45       Marshal to identify the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, the date of the conviction, and  
46       the specific nature of the conviction.

47           (b) The State Fire Marshal may, upon complaint or upon his or her own inquiry, and after

48 notice to the licensee, suspend or revoke a licensee's license if:

49 (1) The license was granted upon an application or documents supporting the application

50 which materially misstated the terms of the applicant's qualifications or experience;

51 (2) The licensee subscribed or vouched for a material misstatement in his or her

52 application for licensure; or

53 (3) The licensee incompetently or unsafely performs fire protection work or damper work.

54 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter to the contrary, an individual may

55 not be required to disclose, nor may the State Fire Marshal consider, an arrest not followed by a

56 conviction in an application for initial licensure or a determination under subdivision (3), subsection

57 (a) of this section.

58 (d) The State Fire Marshal shall update its licensure forms, other relevant public-facing

59 documents, and website to explain the requirements of this section, including, but not limited to,

60 the availability of the process set forth in subdivision (3), subsection (a) of this section.

## CHAPTER 30. PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS.

### ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL STATE BOARDS OF EXAMINATION OR REGISTRATION REFERRED TO IN CHAPTER.

#### §30-1-24. Use of criminal records as disqualification from authorization to practice.

1 (a) *Definitions.* — For the purposes of this section:

2 (1) "Board" means the board, authority, or other agency authorized by the provisions of this

3 chapter to issue licenses, certifications, registrations, or other authorizations to engage in a

4 particular profession or occupation.

5 (2) "License" or "licensure" means the official authorization to engage in a profession or

6 occupation issued by a board, pursuant to the requirements of this chapter.

7 (3) "Unreversed", as that term refers to a criminal conviction, means that a conviction has

8 not been set aside, vacated, pardoned, or expunged.

9 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, except for the professions  
10 and occupations regulated by §30-2-1 *et seq.*, §30-3-1 *et seq.*, §30-3E-1 *et seq.*, §30-14-1 *et seq.*,  
11 §30-18-1 *et seq.*, and §30-29-1 *et seq.* of this code, and where not in conflict with an existing  
12 compact or model act:

13 (1) Boards subject to the requirements of this section may not disqualify an applicant from  
14 initial licensure to engage in a profession or occupation because of a prior criminal conviction that  
15 remains unreversed unless that conviction is for a crime that ~~bears a rational nexus directly and~~  
16 specifically relates to the duties and responsibilities of the profession or occupation requiring  
17 licensure such that granting the applicant licensure would pose a direct and substantial risk to the  
18 public because the applicant has not been rehabilitated. In determining whether a criminal  
19 conviction ~~bears a rational nexus directly and specifically relates~~ to a profession or occupation, the  
20 board shall consider, at a minimum:

21 (A) The nature and seriousness of the crime for which the individual was convicted;

22 (B) The passage of time since the commission of the crime;

23 (C) The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the  
24 duties and discharge the responsibilities of the profession or occupation; and

25 (D) Any evidence of rehabilitation or treatment undertaken by the individual, including the  
26 following, if applicable:

27 (i) The nature and seriousness of the crime for which the individual was convicted;

28 (ii) The passage of time since the commission of the crime;

29 (iii) The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the  
30 duties and discharge the responsibilities of the profession or occupation; and

31 (iv) Any evidence of rehabilitation or treatment undertaken by the individual, including the  
32 following, if applicable:

33 (I) The age of the individual when he or she committed the offense;

### 34 (II) The completion of the criminal sentence;

35           (III) A certificate of rehabilitation or good conduct;

36           (IV) Completion of, or active participation in, rehabilitative mental health, drug, or alcohol  
37           treatment;

38           (V) Testimonials and recommendations, which may include a progress report from the  
39           individual's probation or parole officer;

40           (VI) Education and training;

41           (VII) Employment history relevant to the license being sought;

42           (VIII) Whether the individual will be bonded in the occupation; and

43           (IX) Other evidence of rehabilitation the individual submits to the board.

44           (2) Because the term terms "moral turpitude" and "good moral character" is are vague and  
45           subject to inconsistent applications, boards subject to the requirements of this section may not rely  
46           upon the description of a crime for which an applicant has been convicted as one of "moral  
47           turpitude" or the applicant lacking "good moral character" as a basis for denying licensure.  
48           Provided, That if the prior conviction for the underlying crime bears a rational nexus to the  
49           profession or occupation requiring licensure, the board may consider the conviction according to  
50           the requirements of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

51           (3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter to the contrary, if an applicant is  
52           disqualified from licensure because of a prior criminal conviction, a board shall permit the applicant  
53           to apply for initial licensure if: a board may not disqualify an applicant from initial licensure because  
54           of a prior criminal conviction if:

55           (A) A period of five years has elapsed from the date of conviction or the date of release  
56           from incarceration, whichever is later;

57           (B) The individual has not been convicted of any other crime during the period of time  
58           following the disqualifying offense; and

59 (C) The conviction was not for an offense of a violent or sexual nature: *Provided*, That a  
60 conviction for an offense of a violent or sexual nature may subject an individual to a longer period  
61 of disqualification from licensure, to be determined by the individual board.

62 (4) An individual with a criminal record who has not previously applied for licensure held a  
63 license under this section may petition the appropriate board at any time for a determination of  
64 whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from obtaining a license. This  
65 petition shall include sufficient details about the individual's criminal record to enable the board to  
66 identify the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, the date of the conviction, and the specific  
67 nature of the conviction. The board shall provide the determination within 60 days of receiving the  
68 petition from the applicant. The board may charge a fee to recoup its costs for each petition.

69 (5) The requirements of this section do not apply to the criteria that boards may consider  
70 when making determinations regarding ~~relicensure or~~ discipline of licensees or reinstatement of a  
71 license following discipline.

72 (c) Every board subject to the provisions of this section shall propose rules or amendments  
73 to existing rules for legislative approval to comply with the provisions of this section. These rules or  
74 amendments to rules shall be proposed pursuant to the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code.  
75 ~~within the applicable time limit to be considered by the Legislature during its regular session in the~~  
76 ~~year 2020.~~

77        (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter to the contrary, an individual may  
78        not be required to disclose, nor may a board consider, an arrest not followed by a conviction in an  
79        application for initial licensure or a determination under subdivision (b)(4) of this section.

80       (e) Every board subject to the provisions of this section shall update its licensure forms,  
81       other relevant public-facing documents, and website to explain the requirements of this section,  
82       including, but not limited to, the availability of the process set forth in subdivision (b)(4) of this  
83       section.

## ARTICLE 5. PHARMACISTS, PHARMACY TECHNICIANS, PHARMACY INTERNS

**AND PHARMACIES.****§30-5-9. Qualifications for licensure as pharmacist;**

1                   (a) To be eligible for a license to practice pharmacist care under the provisions of this  
2 article, the applicant shall:

3                   (1) Submit a written application to the board;

4                   (2) Be 18 years of age or older;

5                   (3) Pay all applicable fees;

6                   (4) Graduate from an accredited school of pharmacy;

7                   (5) Complete at least 1,500 hours of internship in a pharmacy under the instruction and  
8 supervision of a pharmacist;

9                   (6) Pass an examination or examinations approved by the board;

10                  (7) Not be an alcohol or drug abuser, as these terms are defined in §27-1A-11 of this code:

11 *Provided*, That an applicant in an active recovery process, which may, in the discretion of the  
12 board, be evidenced by participation in a 12-step program or other similar group or process, may  
13 be considered;

14                  (8) ~~Present to the board satisfactory evidence that he or she is a person of good moral~~  
15 ~~character, has not~~ Not have been convicted of a felony involving the sale or distribution of  
16 controlled substances;

17                  (9) Not have been convicted in any jurisdiction of any other felony or crime which bears a  
18 ~~rational nexus~~ directly and specifically relates to the individual's ability to practice pharmacist care  
19 pursuant to §30-1-24: *Provided*, That an applicant with a felony conviction other than the felony  
20 conviction specified in subdivision eight of this section may apply to the board for licensure no  
21 sooner than five years after the date of the conviction. The board shall evaluate each applicant on  
22 a case by case basis; and

23                  (10) Have fulfilled any other requirement specified by the board in rule.

24                  (b) An applicant from another jurisdiction shall comply with all the requirements of this

25 article.

**§30-5-11a. Pharmacy technician trainee qualifications.**

1                   (a) To be eligible for registration as a pharmacy technician trainee to assist in the practice  
2 of pharmacist care, the applicant shall:

3                   (1) Submit a written application to the board;

4                   (2) Pay the applicable fees;

5                   (3) (A) Have graduated from a high school or obtained a Certificate of General Educational  
6 Development (GED), or

7                   (B) Be currently enrolled in a high school competency based pharmacy technician  
8 education and training program;

9                   (4) (A) Be currently enrolled in a competency-based pharmacy technician education and  
10 training program of a learning institution or training center approved by the board; or

11                   (B) Be an employee of a pharmacy in an on-the-job competency-based pharmacy  
12 technician training program.

13                   (5) Not be an alcohol or drug abuser as these terms are defined in §27-1A-11 of this code:

14 *Provided*, That an applicant in an active recovery process, which may, in the discretion of the  
15 board, be evidenced by participation in a 12-step program or other similar group or process, may  
16 be considered;

17                   (6) Not have been convicted of a felony in any jurisdiction within 10 years preceding the  
18 date of application for registration, which conviction remains unreversed;

19                   (7) Not have been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony in any jurisdiction which bears a  
20 ~~rational nexus directly and specifically relates~~ to the practice of pharmacist care, which conviction  
21 remains unreversed pursuant to §30-1-24; and

22                   (8) Have requested and submitted to the board the results of a fingerprint-based state and  
23 a national electronic criminal history records check.

24                   (b) The rules, authorized duties, and unauthorized prohibitions as set out in §30-5-12 of

25 this code for pharmacy technicians apply to pharmacy technician trainees.

26 (c) The board shall promulgate an emergency rule and legislative rule pursuant to article

27 ~~two, chapter twenty-nine-a to §29A-3-1 et seq.~~ to authorize the requirements of this section to

28 permit pharmacy technician trainees.

## **ARTICLE 6. BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE EXAMINERS.**

### **§30-6-8. Embalmer license requirements.**

1 The board shall issue a license to practice embalming to an applicant who:

2 (a) Is free of a felony conviction bearing a rational nexus which directly and specifically

3 relates to the profession pursuant to §30-1-24 of this code;

4 (b) Is 18 years of age or over;

5 (c) Is a citizen of the United States or is eligible for employment in the United States;

6 (d) Has a high school diploma or its equivalent;

7 (e) Has completed one of the following education requirements, as evidenced by a

8 transcript submitted to the board for evaluation:

9 (1)(A) Has an associate degree from an accredited college or university; or

10 (2) Has successfully completed at least 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of

11 academic work in an accredited college or university toward a baccalaureate degree with a

12 declared major field of study; and

13 (3) Has graduated from a school of mortuary science, accredited by the American Board of

14 Funeral Service Education, Inc., which requires as a prerequisite to graduation the completion of a

15 course of study of not less than 12 months; or

16 (B) Has a bachelor degree in mortuary science from an accredited college or university;

17 (f) Has completed a one-year apprenticeship, under the supervision of a licensed

18 embalmer and funeral director actively and lawfully engaged in the practice of embalming and

19 funeral directing in this state, which apprenticeship consisted of:

20 (1) Diligent attention to the work in the course of regular and steady employment and not

21 as a side issue to another employment; and

22 (2) The apprentice taking an active part in:

23 (A) The operation of embalming not less than 35 dead human bodies; and

24 (B) Conducting not less than 35 funeral services;

25 (g) Passes, with an average score of not less than 75 percent, the following examinations:

26 (1) The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards examination at a

27 testing site provided by the national conference, which passage is a condition precedent to taking

28 the state law examination;

29 (2) The West Virginia Laws, Rules, and Regulations Examination, administered by the

30 International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards; and

31 (3) Any other examination required by the board; and

32 (h) Has paid all the appropriate fees.

33 A license to practice embalming issued by the board prior to July 1, 2012, shall for all

34 purposes be considered a license issued under this section: *Provided*, That a person holding a

35 license issued prior to July 1, 2012, must renew the license pursuant to the provisions of this

36 article.

### **§30-6-17. Apprenticeship.**

1 (a) After July 1, 2022, the board shall issue a registration to be an apprentice funeral

2 service licensee to an applicant who meets the following requirements:

3 (1) Is free of a felony conviction ~~bearing a rational nexus that directly and specifically~~

4 ~~relates~~ to the profession pursuant to §30-1-24 of this code;

5 (2) Is 18 years of age or over;

6 (3) Is a citizen of the United States or be eligible for employment in the United States;

7 (4) Has a high school diploma or its equivalent;

8 (5) The required 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of college or university credits and

9 mortuary school can be completed prior to, during, or after the apprenticeship; and

10 (6) Has paid the appropriate fees.

11 (b) Any person that commences an apprenticeship prior to January 1, 2003, may continue  
12 to serve such apprenticeship and is not subject to the requirements set forth in this section, but is  
13 subject to board approval.

14 (c) The board may set the requirements for an apprenticeship, including the manner in  
15 which it shall be served and the length of time, which shall not be more than one year for a funeral  
16 service licensee and shall not be more than two years for a funeral director.

17 (d) No licensed funeral director or licensed embalmer shall be permitted to register or have  
18 registered more than five apprentices under his or her license at the same time.

## ARTICLE 20. PHYSICAL THERAPISTS.

**§30-20-8a. West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy criminal history record checks.**

1 (a) The West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy is authorized to require state and national  
2 criminal history record checks for the purpose of issuing licenses. The West Virginia Board of  
3 Physical Therapy shall require an applicant, including physical therapists and physical therapy  
4 assistants, as a condition of eligibility for initial license to submit to a state and national criminal  
5 history record check as set forth in this section.

6 (b) The applicant shall meet all requirements necessary to accomplish the state and  
7 national criminal history record check, including:

(1) Submitting fingerprints for the purposes set forth in this subsection; and

12 (c) The results of the state and national criminal history record check may not be released  
13 to or by a private entity except:

14 (1) To the individual who is the subject of the criminal history record check;

(2) With the written authorization of the individual who is the subject of the criminal history

16 record check; or

(3) Pursuant to a court order.

18 (d) The criminal history record check and related records are not public records for the  
19 purposes of §29B-1-1 *et seq.* of this code.

20 (e) The applicant shall ensure that the criminal history record check is completed as soon  
21 as possible after the date of the original application for registration.

22 (f) The applicant shall pay the actual costs of the fingerprinting and criminal history record  
23 check.

24 (g) The board may not disqualify an applicant for initial licensure because of a prior criminal  
25 conviction that has not been reversed unless that conviction is for a crime that ~~bears a rational~~  
26 ~~nexus directly and specifically relates to the occupation requiring licensure pursuant to §30-1-24 of~~  
27 this code.

(h) The board may not use crimes involving moral turpitude in making licensure determinations.

30 (i) If an applicant is disqualified for licensure because of a criminal conviction that has not  
31 been reversed, the board shall afford the applicant the opportunity to reapply for licensure after the  
32 expiration of five years from the date of conviction or date of release from the penalty that was  
33 imposed, whichever is later, if the individual has not been convicted of any other crime during that  
34 period of time: *Provided*, That convictions for violent or sexual offenses or offenses shall subject  
35 an individual to a longer period of disqualification, to be determined by the board.

36 (j) An individual with a criminal record who has not previously applied for licensure,  
37 certification, or registration may petition the board at any time for a determination of whether the  
38 individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from obtaining a license or other  
39 authorization to practice. This petition shall include sufficient details about the individual's criminal  
40 record to enable the board to identify the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, the date of the

41 ~~conviction, and the specific nature of the conviction. The board shall inform the individual of his or~~  
42 ~~her standing within 60 days of receiving the petition from the applicant. The board may charge a~~  
43 ~~fee established by rule to recoup its costs for each petition~~

44 ~~(k)(h) The board shall propose rules or amendments to existing rules for legislative~~  
45 ~~approval to comply with the provisions of this section. These rules or amendments to rules shall be~~  
46 ~~proposed pursuant to the provisions of §29A-3-1 et seq. of this code. within the applicable time~~  
47 ~~limit to be considered by the Legislature during its regular session in the year 2020.~~

## **ARTICLE 32. SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS.**

### **§30-32-10a. Application for licensure; qualification for licensure; examination.**

1 (a) Each person desiring to obtain a license from the board to engage in the practice of  
2 dealing in or fitting of hearing aids shall make application to the board. The application shall be  
3 made in such manner and form as prescribed by the board and shall be accompanied by the  
4 prescribed fee. The application shall state under oath that the applicant:

5 (1) Is a resident of this state;

6 (2) Is free of a felony conviction ~~bearing a rational nexus~~ that directly and specifically  
7 relates to the profession pursuant to §30-1-24 of this code;

8 (3) Is 18 years of age or older;

9 (4) Has an education equivalent to a four-year course in an accredited high school; and

10 (5) Is free of chronic infectious or contagious diseases.

11 (b) The board, after first determining that the applicant is qualified and eligible to take the  
12 examination, shall notify the applicant that he or she has fulfilled all of the qualifications and  
13 eligibility requirements as required and shall advise him or her of the date, time, and place for him  
14 or her to appear to be examined as required by the provisions of this article and the regulations  
15 promulgated by the board pursuant to this article. The board may promulgate rules relating to the  
16 frequency of examinations and other such related topics pursuant to §29A-3-1 of this code.

(c) Before obtaining a license to engage in the practice of dealing in or fitting of hearing-aids, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

(1) The applicant must pass the International Licensing Examination for Hearing Healthcare Professionals, prepared by the International Hearing Society, or an equivalent examination selected by the board.

(2) The applicant must pass a practical examination, which shall be a nationally recognized test selected by the board, or a test designed by the board to test the applicant's proficiency in the following techniques as they pertain to the fitting of hearing aids:

(A) Pure tone audiometry, including air conduction testing;

(B) Live voice or recorded voice speech audiometry, including speech reception threshold testing and speech discrimination testing; and

(C) Masking when indicated and effective masking.

(3) The applicant must pass an examination, which shall be developed by the board, to test an applicant's competency in the following subjects:

(A) Ability to counsel the person or family who will receive the hearing aid relative to the care and use of the instrument;

(B) Knowledge regarding the medical and rehabilitative facilities for hearing-handicapped children and adults in the area being served:

(C) Knowledge and understanding of the grounds for revocation, suspension, or probation of a license as outlined in this article or in rule; and

(D) Knowledge and understanding of criminal offenses relating to the profession.

(d) The board may promulgate rules to implement the requirements of this section, including emergency rules promulgated pursuant to the provisions of §29A-3-1 of this code.

(e) The provisions of this section will take effect upon the sunset or termination of the Board of Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters, which in no event will be later than July 1, 2023.

## ARTICLES 36. ACUPUNCTURISTS

**§30-36-10. Qualifications of applicants for licensure; and qualifications for certificate holders.**

25 certificate as an auricular detoxification specialist, an applicant shall:

26 (1) Be at least 18 years old;

27 (2) Be authorized in this state to engage in any of the following:

28 (A) Physician assistant, pursuant to §30-3E-1 *et seq.* of this code;

29 (B) Dentist, pursuant to §30-4-1 *et seq.* of this code;

30 (C) Registered professional nurse, pursuant to §30-7-1 *et seq.* of this code;

31 (D) Practical nurse, pursuant to §30-7A-1 *et seq.* of this code;

32 (E) Psychologist, pursuant to §30-21-1 *et seq.* of this code;

33 (F) Occupational therapist, pursuant to §30-28-1 *et seq.* of this code;

34 (G) Social worker, pursuant to §30-30-1 *et seq.* of this code;

35 (H) Professional counselor, pursuant to §30-31-1 *et seq.* of this code;

36 (I) Emergency medical services provider, pursuant to §16-4C-1 *et seq.* of this code;

37 (J) Corrections medical providers, pursuant to §15A-1-1 *et seq.* of this code; or

38 (K) Any other profession the board determines is eligible to engage in the practice of

39 auricular acudetox.

40 (3) Provide evidence of successful completion of a board-approved auricular acudetox  
41 program;

42 (4) Submit a completed application as prescribed by the board; and

43 (5) Submit the appropriate fees as provided for by legislative rule.

44 (c) A certificate may be issued to a retired or inactive professional as described in §30-36-  
45 10(b) of this code: *Provided*, That the professional meets the qualifications for a certificate holder  
46 and the last three years of professional activity were performed in good standing: *Provided*,  
47 *however*, That a person who holds a certificate or its equivalent in another jurisdiction as an  
48 auricular detoxification specialist may be approved by the board to practice auricular acudetox  
49 during a public health emergency or state of emergency for a duration to be provided for in  
50 legislative rules of the board.

## CHAPTER 31. CORPORATIONS.

### **§31-17A-5. Issuance of license.**

1                   (a) The commissioner may not issue a mortgage loan originator license unless the

2 commissioner makes at a minimum the following findings:

3                   (1) The applicant has never had a mortgage loan originator license revoked in any

4 governmental jurisdiction, except that a subsequent formal vacation of the revocation may not be

5 considered a revocation.

6                   (2) The applicant has not been convicted of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere to, a felony

7 in a domestic, foreign, or military court: *Provided*, That any pardon of a conviction may not be a

8 conviction for purposes of this subsection: *Provided, however*, That the commissioner shall apply

9 §31-17A-5(b) and §31-17A-5(c) of this code in determining whether an applicant's prior criminal

10 convictions ~~bear a rational nexus~~ directly and specifically relate to the license being sought

11 pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of this section;

12                   (A) ~~During the five year period preceding the date of the application for licensing and~~

13 ~~registration; or~~

14                   (B) ~~At any time preceding the date of application if the crime bears a rational nexus to the~~

15 ~~license being sought~~

16                   (3) The applicant has demonstrated financial responsibility, character, and general fitness

17 such as to command the confidence of the community and to warrant a determination that the

18 mortgage loan originator will operate honestly, fairly, and efficiently within the purposes of this

19 article.

20                   For purposes of this subsection, a person has shown that he or she is not financially

21 responsible when he or she has shown a disregard in the management of his or her own financial

22 condition. The commissioner shall not use a credit score as the sole basis for license denial. A

23 determination that an individual has not shown financial responsibility may include, but not be  
24 limited to:

25 (A) Current outstanding judgments, except judgments solely as a result of medical  
26 expenses;

27 (B) Current outstanding tax liens or other government liens and filings;

28 (C) Foreclosures within the past three years; and

29 (D) A pattern of seriously delinquent accounts within the past three years.

30 (4) The applicant has completed the pre-licensing education requirement described in  
31 §31-17A-6 of this code.

32 (5) The applicant has passed a written test that meets the test requirement described in  
33 §31-17A-7 of this code.

34 (6) The applicant has met the surety bond requirement as required pursuant to §31-17A-  
35 13 of this code.

36 (b) The commissioner may not disqualify an applicant from initial licensure because of a  
37 prior criminal conviction that remains unreversed unless that conviction is for a crime that bears a  
38 ~~rational nexus directly and specifically relates to the duties and responsibilities of the activity~~  
39 ~~requiring licensure such that granting the applicant licensure would pose a direct and substantial~~  
40 ~~risk to the public because the applicant has not been rehabilitated~~. In determining whether a  
41 criminal conviction bears a ~~rational nexus directly and specifically relates to a profession or~~  
42 occupation, the commissioner shall consider at a minimum:

43 (1) The nature and seriousness of the crime for which the individual was convicted;

44 (2) The passage of time since the commission of the crime;

45 (3) The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the  
46 duties and discharge the responsibilities of the profession or occupation; and

47 (4) Any evidence of rehabilitation or treatment undertaken by the individual, including the  
48 following, if applicable:

49                   (A) The age of the individual when he or she committed the offense;  
50                   (B) The completion of the criminal sentence;  
51                   (C) A certificate of rehabilitation or good conduct;  
52                   (D) Completion of, or active participation in, rehabilitative mental health, drug, or alcohol  
53 treatment;  
54                   (E) Testimonials and recommendations, which may include a progress report from the  
55 individual's probation or parole officer;  
56                   (F) Education and training;  
57                   (G) Employment history relevant to the license being sought;  
58                   (H) Whether the individual will be bonded in the occupation; and  
59                   (I) Other evidence of rehabilitation the individual submits to the commissioner.

60                   (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, ~~if an applicant is~~  
61 ~~disqualified from licensure because of a prior criminal conviction, the commissioner shall permit~~  
62 ~~the applicant to apply for initial licensure if: the commissioner may not disqualify an applicant from~~  
63 ~~initial licensure because of a prior criminal conviction if:~~

64                   (1) A period of five years has elapsed from the date of conviction or the date of release from  
65 incarceration, whichever is later;

66                   (2) The individual has not been convicted of any other crime during the period of time  
67 following the disqualifying offense; and

68                   (3) The conviction was not for an offense of a violent or sexual nature: *Provided*, That a  
69 conviction for an offense of a violent or sexual nature may subject an individual to a longer period  
70 of disqualification from licensure, to be determined by the commissioner.

71                   (d) An individual with a criminal record who has not previously applied for licensure ~~held a~~  
72 license under this section may petition the commissioner at any time for a determination of  
73 whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from obtaining a license. This  
74 petition shall include sufficient details about the individual's criminal record to enable the

75 commissioner to identify the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, the date of the conviction,  
76 and the specific nature of the conviction. The commissioner shall provide the determination within  
77 60 days of receiving the petition from the applicant. The commissioner may charge a fee to recoup  
78 its costs for each petition.

79 (e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter to the contrary, an individual may  
80 not be required to disclose, nor may the commissioner consider, an arrest not followed by a  
81 conviction in an application for initial licensure or a determination under subsection (d) of this  
82 section.

83 (f) The commissioner shall update his or her licensure forms, other relevant public-facing  
84 documents, and website to explain the requirements of this section, including, but not limited to,  
85 the availability of the process set forth in subsection (d) of this section.

## **CHAPTER 32A. LAND SALES; FALSE ADVERTISING; ISSUANCE AND**

### **SALE OF CHECKS, DRAFTS, MONEY ORDERS, ETC.**

#### **ARTICLE 2. CHECKS AND MONEY ORDER SALES, MONEY TRANSMISSION SERVICES, TRANSPORTATION, AND CURRENCY EXCHANGE.**

##### **§32A-2-8. Qualifications for license or renewal of license.**

1 (a) The commissioner may issue a license to an applicant only upon first determining that  
2 the financial condition, business experience, and character and general fitness of an applicant are  
3 such that the issuance of the license is in the public interest: *Provided*, That the commissioner  
4 shall apply §32A-2-8(f) and §32A-2-8(g) of this code in determining whether an applicant's prior  
5 criminal convictions ~~bear a rational nexus~~ directly and specifically relate to the license being  
6 sought.

7 (b) An applicant for a license shall agree in writing to comply with the currency reporting  
8 and record-keeping requirements of 31 U.S.C. §5313, as well as those set forth in 31 C.F.R.  
9 Chapter X and any other relevant federal law.

10 (c) A person is not eligible for a license or shall surrender an existing license if, during the  
11 previous five years:

12 (1) The person or a principal of the person, of a business:

13 (A) Has been convicted of a felony or a crime involving fraud or deceit under the laws of this  
14 state, any other state, or the United States;

15 (B) Has been convicted of a crime under the laws of another country that involves fraud or  
16 deceit or would be a felony if committed in the United States; or

17 (C) Has been convicted under a state or federal law relating to currency exchange or  
18 transmission or any state or federal monetary instrument reporting requirement; or

19 (2) The person, a principal of the person, or the spouse of the person or a principal of the  
20 person has been convicted of an offense under a state or federal law relating to drug trafficking,  
21 money laundering, or a reporting requirement of the Bank Secrecy Act, 12 U.S.C. §1951 *et seq.*,  
22 as amended.

23 (d) The commissioner will review the application to determine whether the applicant:

24 (1) Has recklessly failed to file or evaded the obligation to file a currency transaction report  
25 as required by 31 U.S.C. §5313 during the previous three years;

26 (2) Has recklessly accepted currency for exchange, transport, or transmission during the  
27 previous three years in which a portion of the currency was derived from an illegal transaction or  
28 activity;

29 (3) Will conduct its authorized business within the bounds of state and federal law,  
30 including, but not limited to, §31D-15-1501 of this code:

31 (4) Warrants the trust of the community:

32 (5) Has and will maintain at all times a minimum tangible net worth of the greater of  
33 \$100,000 or three percent of total assets for the first \$100 million, two percent of additional assets  
34 for \$100 million to \$1 billion, and 0.5 percent of additional assets for over \$1 billion, computed  
35 according to United States generally accepted accounting principles as shown by the most recent

36 audited financial statement filed with and satisfactory to the commissioner, except that an  
37 applicant for a license or renewal of a license may not be required by this article to maintain a  
38 tangible net worth of more than \$1 million, computed according to generally accepted accounting  
39 principles; and

40 (6) Does not owe delinquent taxes, fines, or fees to any local or state taxing authority or  
41 governmental agency, department, or other political subdivision of this state.

42 (e) A person is not eligible for a license, and a person who holds a license shall surrender  
43 the license to the commissioner, if the person or a principal of the person has at any time been  
44 convicted of:

45 (1) A felony involving the laundering of money that is the product of or proceeds from  
46 criminal activity under Chapter 61 of this code, or a similar provision of the laws of another state or  
47 the United States; or

48 (2) A felony violation of 31 U.S.C. §5313 or 5324, or a rule adopted under those sections.

49 (f) The commissioner may not disqualify an applicant from initial licensure because of a  
50 prior criminal conviction that remains unreversed unless that conviction is for a crime that bears a  
51 ~~rational nexus~~ directly and specifically relates to the duties and responsibilities of the activity  
52 requiring licensure such that granting the applicant licensure would pose a direct and substantial  
53 risk to the public because the applicant has not been rehabilitated. In determining whether a  
54 criminal conviction bears a ~~rational nexus~~ directly and specifically relates to a profession or  
55 occupation, the commissioner shall consider at a minimum:

56 (1) The nature and seriousness of the crime for which the individual was convicted;

57 (2) The passage of time since the commission of the crime;

58 (3) The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the  
59 duties and discharge the responsibilities of the profession or occupation; and

60 (4) Any evidence of rehabilitation or treatment undertaken by the individual, including the  
61 following, if applicable:

62                   (A) The age of the individual when he or she committed the offense;  
63                   (B) The completion of the criminal sentence;  
64                   (C) A certificate of rehabilitation or good conduct;  
65                   (D) Completion of, or active participation in, rehabilitative mental health, drug, or alcohol  
66 treatment;  
67                   (E) Testimonials and recommendations, which may include a progress report from the  
68 individual's probation or parole officer;  
69                   (F) Education and training;  
70                   (G) Employment history relevant to the license being sought;  
71                   (H) Whether the individual will be bonded in the occupation; and  
72                   (I) Other evidence of rehabilitation the individual submits to the commissioner.

73                   (g) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, ~~if an applicant is~~  
74 ~~disqualified from licensure because of a prior criminal conviction, the commissioner shall permit~~  
75 ~~the applicant to apply for initial licensure if: the commissioner may not disqualify an applicant from~~  
76 ~~initial licensure because of a prior criminal conviction if:~~

77                   (1) A period of five years has elapsed from the date of conviction or the date of release from  
78 incarceration, whichever is later;

79                   (2) The individual has not been convicted of any other crime during the period of time  
80 following the disqualifying offense; and

81                   (3) The conviction was not for an offense of a violent or sexual nature: *Provided*, That a  
82 conviction for an offense of a violent or sexual nature may subject an individual to a longer period  
83 of disqualification from licensure, to be determined by the commissioner.

84                   (h) An individual with a criminal record who has not previously applied for licensure ~~held a~~  
85 license under this section may petition the commissioner at any time for a determination of  
86 whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from obtaining a license. This  
87 petition shall include sufficient details about the individual's criminal record to enable the

88 commissioner to identify the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, the date of the conviction,  
89 and the specific nature of the conviction. The commissioner shall provide the determination within  
90 60 days of receiving the petition from the applicant. The commissioner may charge a fee to recoup  
91 its costs for each petition.

92 (i) Before approving an application for a license of an applicant who has less than one  
93 year's experience in the proposed business governed by this article as a regulated entity in  
94 another state, or whose license has been suspended or revoked by another state, the  
95 commissioner may, in his or her discretion, conduct an on-site investigation of an applicant at the  
96 sole expense of the applicant and may require the applicant to pay a nonrefundable payment of  
97 the anticipated expenses for conducting the investigation. Failure to make the payment or  
98 cooperate with the investigation is grounds for denying the application.

99 (j) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter to the contrary, an individual may not  
100 be required to disclose, nor may a board consider, an arrest not followed by a conviction in an  
101 application for initial licensure or a determination under subsection (h) of this section.

102 (k) The commissioner shall update his or her licensure forms, other relevant public-facing  
103 documents, and website to explain the requirements of this section, including, but not limited to,  
104 the availability of the process set forth in subsection (h) of this section.

## CHAPTER 33. INSURANCE.

### ARTICLE 13C. VIATICAL SETTLEMENTS ACT.

#### §33-13C-3. License and bond requirements.

1 (a)(1) A person may not operate as a viatical settlement provider or viatical settlement  
2 broker without first obtaining a license from the commissioner.

3 (2)(A) An insurance producer who is authorized to sell life insurance in this state pursuant  
4 to a resident or nonresident license issued in accordance with the provisions of §33-12-1 *et seq.* of  
5 this code may operate as a viatical settlement broker without obtaining a license pursuant to this

6 section if the viatical settlement activities of the producer are incidental to the producer's insurance  
7 business activities.

8 (B) The insurer that issued the policy being viaticated is not responsible for any act or  
9 omission of a viatical settlement broker or viatical settlement provider arising out of or in  
10 connection with the viatical settlement transaction, unless the insurer receives compensation for  
11 the placement of a viatical settlement contract from the viatical settlement provider or viatical  
12 settlement broker in connection with the viatical settlement contract.

13 (3) A person licensed as an attorney, certified public accountant, or financial planner  
14 accredited by a nationally recognized accreditation agency who is retained to represent the viator,  
15 whose compensation is not paid directly or indirectly by the viatical settlement provider, may  
16 negotiate viatical settlement contracts on behalf of the viator without having to obtain a license as  
17 a viatical settlement broker.

18 (b) Application for a viatical settlement provider or viatical settlement broker license and for  
19 renewals of the licenses shall be made in the manner prescribed by the commissioner and shall be  
20 accompanied by fees established in legislative rules, including emergency rules, promulgated by  
21 the commissioner.

22 (1) The commissioner may not disqualify an applicant from initial licensure because of a  
23 prior criminal conviction that remains unreversed unless that conviction is for a crime that ~~bears a~~  
24 ~~rational nexus directly and specifically relates to the duties and responsibilities of the activity~~  
25 ~~requiring licensure such that granting the applicant licensure would pose a direct and substantial~~  
26 ~~risk to the public because the applicant has not been rehabilitated~~. In determining whether a  
27 criminal conviction ~~bears a rational nexus directly and specifically relates to a profession or~~  
28 occupation, the commissioner shall consider, at a minimum:

29 (A) The nature and seriousness of the crime for which the individual was convicted;  
30 (B) The passage of time since the commission of the crime;  
31 (C) The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the

32 duties and discharge the responsibilities of the profession or occupation; and

33 (D) Any evidence of rehabilitation or treatment undertaken by the individual, including the  
34 following, if applicable:

35 (i) The age of the individual when he or she committed the offense;  
36 (ii) The completion of the criminal sentence;  
37 (iii) A certificate of rehabilitation or good conduct;  
38 (iv) Completion of, or active participation in, rehabilitative mental health, drug, or alcohol  
39 treatment;

40 (v) Testimonials and recommendations, which may include a progress report from the  
41 individual's probation or parole officer;

42 (vi) Education and training;  
43 (vii) Employment history relevant to the license being sought;  
44 (viii) Whether the individual will be bonded in the occupation; and

45 (ix) Other evidence of rehabilitation the individual submits to the commissioner.

46 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, if an applicant is  
47 disqualified from licensure because of a prior criminal conviction, unless that conviction is a felony  
48 pursuant to §33-13C-14 of this code, the commissioner shall permit the applicant to apply for initial  
49 licensure if: the commissioner may not disqualify an applicant from initial licensure because of a  
50 prior criminal conviction, except for a felony pursuant to §33-13C-14 of this code, if:

51 (A) A period of five years has elapsed from the date of conviction or the date of release  
52 from incarceration, whichever is later;

53 (B) The individual has not been convicted of any other crime during the period of time  
54 following the disqualifying offense; and

55 (C) The conviction was not for an offense of a violent or sexual nature: *Provided*, That a  
56 conviction for an offense of a violent or sexual nature may subject an individual to a longer period  
57 of disqualification from licensure, to be determined by the commissioner.

(3) An individual with a criminal record who has not previously applied for licensure held a license under this section may petition the commissioner at any time for a determination of whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from obtaining a license. This petition shall include sufficient details about the individual's criminal record to enable the commissioner to identify the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, the date of the conviction, and the specific nature of the conviction. The commissioner shall provide the determination within 60 days of receiving the petition from the applicant. The commissioner may charge a fee to recoup its costs for each petition.

66 (c) The commissioner has the authority, at any time, to require the applicant to fully  
67 disclose the identity of all stockholders, partners, officers, members, and employees and the  
68 commissioner may, in the exercise of the commissioner's discretion, refuse to issue a license in  
69 the name of a legal entity if not satisfied that any officer, employee, stockholder, partner, or  
70 member of the entity who may materially influence the applicant's conduct meets the standards of  
71 this article.

72 (d) The commissioner shall make an investigation of each applicant and issue a license if  
73 the commissioner finds that the applicant:

74 (1) If a viatical settlement provider, has provided a detailed plan of operation;

75 (2) Is competent and trustworthy and acts in good faith in the capacity of a licensee;

76 (3) Has a good business reputation and is qualified by experience, training, or education as

77 a viatical settlement provider or broker:

78 (4) Has demonstrated evidence of financial responsibility, in a format prescribed by the  
79 commissioner, by possessing a minimum equity of not less than \$250,000 in cash or cash  
80 equivalents reflected in the applicant's audited financial statements or through a surety bond  
81 executed and issued by an insurer authorized to issue surety bonds in this state in the amount of  
82 \$250,000: *Provided*, That the commissioner may permit an applicant for a broker's license to  
83 demonstrate evidence of financial responsibility through a policy of insurance covering legal

84 liability resulting from erroneous acts or failure to act in their capacity as a viatical settlement  
85 broker and inuring to the benefit of any aggrieved party as the result of any single occurrence in the  
86 sum of not less than \$100,000 and \$300,000 in the aggregate for all occurrences within one year.  
87 Any surety bond issued pursuant to this subdivision shall be in the favor of this state and shall  
88 specifically authorize recovery by the commissioner on behalf of any person in this state who  
89 sustained damages as the result of erroneous acts, failure to act, conviction of fraud, or conviction  
90 of unfair practices by the viatical settlement provider or viatical settlement broker. The  
91 commissioner shall accept, as evidence of financial responsibility, proof that financial instruments  
92 in accordance with the requirements in this paragraph have been filed with a state in which the  
93 applicant is licensed as a viatical settlement provider or viatical settlement broker. The  
94 commissioner may ask for evidence of financial responsibility at any time he or she considers it  
95 necessary.

96 (5) If a legal entity has provided a certificate of good standing from the state of its domicile;  
97 and

98 (6) Has provided an antifraud plan that meets the requirements of §33-13C-14(g) of this  
99 code.

100 (e) The commissioner may not issue a license to a nonresident applicant unless the  
101 applicant files with the commissioner either a written designation of an agent for service of process  
102 or the applicant's written irrevocable consent that any action against the applicant may be  
103 commenced against the applicant by service of process on the commissioner.

104 (f) A viatical settlement provider or viatical settlement broker shall provide to the  
105 commissioner new or revised information about officers, 10 percent or more stockholders,  
106 partners, directors, members, or designated employees within 30 days of the change.

107 (g) An individual licensed as a viatical settlement broker shall complete on a biennial basis  
108 15 hours of training related to viatical settlements and viatical settlement transactions as required  
109 by the commissioner. A life insurance producer operating as a viatical settlement broker pursuant

110 to subdivision (2), subsection (a) of this section is not subject to the requirements of this  
111 subsection. Any person failing to meet the requirements of this subsection is subject to the  
112 penalties imposed by the commissioner.

113 (h) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter to the contrary, an individual may  
114 not be required to disclose, nor may a board consider, an arrest not followed by a conviction in an  
115 application for initial licensure or a determination under subsection (e) of this section.

116 (i) The commissioner shall update his or her licensure forms, other relevant public-facing  
117 documents, and website to explain the requirements of this section, including, but not limited to,  
118 the availability of the process set forth in subsection (e) of this section.

#### **§33-13C-4. License revocation and denial.**

1 (a) The commissioner may refuse to issue, suspend, revoke, place on probation, or refuse  
2 to renew the license of a viatical settlement provider or viatical settlement broker if the  
3 commissioner finds that:

4 (1) There was any material misrepresentation in the application for the license;  
5 (2) The licensee or any officer, partner, member, or key management personnel has been  
6 convicted of fraudulent or dishonest practices, is subject to a final administrative action, or is  
7 otherwise shown to be untrustworthy or incompetent;

8 (3) The viatical settlement provider demonstrates a pattern of unreasonable payments to  
9 viators;

10 (4) The licensee or any officer, partner, member, or key management personnel has been  
11 found guilty of, or has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to, any felony, or to a misdemeanor  
12 involving fraud, regardless of whether a judgment of conviction has been entered by the court:  
13 *Provided, That the commissioner shall apply §33-13C-3(b) of this code and any relevant*  
14 *legislative rules in determining whether an applicant's prior criminal convictions bear a rational*  
15 *nexus to directly and specifically relate to the license being sought;*

(5) The viatical settlement provider has entered into any viatical settlement contract that has not been approved pursuant to this article;

(6) The viatical settlement provider has failed to honor contractual obligations set out in a viatical settlement contract;

(7) The licensee no longer meets the requirements for initial licensure;

21 (8) The viatical settlement provider has assigned, transferred or pledged a viaticated policy  
22 to a person other than a viatical settlement provider licensed in this state, viatical settlement  
23 purchaser, an accredited investor, or qualified institutional buyer as defined respectively in Rule  
24 501(a) or Rule 144A promulgated under the Federal Securities Act of 1933, as amended,  
25 financing entity, special purpose entity, or related provider trust; or

26 (9) The licensee or any officer, partner, member, or key management personnel has  
27 violated any provision of this article.

28 (b) The commissioner may suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew the license of a viatical  
29 settlement broker or a life insurance producer operating as a viatical settlement broker pursuant to  
30 this article if the commissioner finds that the viatical settlement broker or life insurance producer  
31 has violated the provisions of this article or has otherwise engaged in bad faith conduct with one or  
32 more viators.

33 (c) If the commissioner denies a license application or suspends, revokes, or refuses to  
34 renew the license of a viatical settlement provider, viatical settlement broker, or life insurance  
35 producer operating as a viatical settlement broker, the commissioner shall conduct a hearing in  
36 accordance with §33-2-13 of this code.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to modify the use of criminal records in determinations to allow an individual to practice a profession or occupation, by a board, authority, or other agency authorized to issue licenses, certifications, registrations, or other authorizations to engage in a particular profession or occupation.

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