

1 State of Arkansas  
2 91st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2017  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1835

5 By: Representative Dotson  
6 By: Senator Hester  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO PROMOTE, RECRUIT, AND RETAIN A HIGHLY  
10 SKILLED WORKFORCE IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS; TO AMEND  
11 THE LAW CONCERNING LICENSING, REGISTRATION, AND  
12 CERTIFICATION FOR CERTAIN PROFESSIONS; TO ESTABLISH A  
13 SYSTEM OF RECIPROCITY FOR LICENSING, REGISTRATION,  
14 AND CERTIFICATION FOR CERTAIN PROFESSIONS; AND FOR  
15 OTHER PURPOSES.  
16  
17

## Subtitle

18 TO PROMOTE, RECRUIT, AND RETAIN A HIGHLY  
19 SKILLED WORKFORCE IN THE STATE OF  
20 ARKANSAS; TO ESTABLISH A SYSTEM OF  
21 RECIPROCITY FOR LICENSING, REGISTRATION,  
22 AND CERTIFICATION FOR CERTAIN  
23 PROFESSIONS.  
24  
25  
26

27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
28

29 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-1-107 is amended to read as follows:  
30 17-1-107. Reinstatement of licenses.

31 ~~(a)(1) It is not the intent of the General Assembly to cause the~~  
32 ~~licensing entity to engage in simple comparisons of the required hours of~~  
33 ~~training and other personal qualifications under Arkansas's occupational~~  
34 ~~licensing statutes with those qualifications required in the state where the~~  
35 ~~person is credentialed.~~

36 ~~(2) It is the intent of the General Assembly to ensure that a~~



1 ~~person may be credentialed to work in Arkansas if he or she generally~~  
 2 ~~demonstrates the skills and ethics required by state law based on the~~  
 3 ~~person's experience and credentials in another state.~~

4 ~~(b)(a)~~ A licensing entity shall by rule adopt reduced requirements for  
 5 reinstatement of a license, registration, or certification for a person who:

6 (1) Demonstrates that he or she:

7 (A) Was previously licensed, registered, or certified to  
 8 practice in the field of his or her profession at any time in this state;

9 (B) Held his or her license in good standing at the time  
 10 of licensing;

11 (C) Did not have his or her license revoked for:

12 (i) An act of bad faith; or

13 (ii) A violation of law, rule, or ethics;

14 (D) Is not holding a suspended or probationary license in  
 15 any state; and

16 (E) Is sufficiently competent in his or her field; and

17 (2) Pays any reinstatement fee required by law.

18 ~~(e)(b)~~ The licensing entity may require that sufficient competency in  
 19 a particular field be demonstrated by:

20 (1) Proficiency testing;

21 (2) Letters of recommendation; or

22 (3) Both proficiency testing and letters of recommendation.

23 ~~(d)(1)(c)(1)~~ Except as provided under subdivision (c)(2) of this  
 24 section, the licensing entity shall not require a person who meets the  
 25 requirements of subsection (a) of this section to participate in the  
 26 apprenticeship, education, or training required as a prerequisite to  
 27 licensing, registration, or certification of a new professional in the field.

28 (2) The licensing entity may require the person to participate  
 29 in continuing education or training if the continuing education or training  
 30 is required for all professionals in the field to maintain the license,  
 31 registration, or certification.

32 ~~(e)(d)~~ A person shall not be required to comply with requirements  
 33 under this section to obtain reinstatement of his or her license,  
 34 registration, or certification if the person meets the requirements for  
 35 reciprocity.

36 ~~(f)(e)~~ If a criminal background check is required of a person

1 currently holding a license, registration, or certification, then the  
 2 licensing entity may require a person seeking reinstatement under this  
 3 section to meet the same criminal background check requirements as the person  
 4 currently holding a license, registration, or certification.

5 ~~(g)(f)(1)~~ As used in this section "licensing entity" means an agency,  
 6 board, commission, department, committee, or other authority of the  
 7 government of the State of Arkansas, whether within or subject to review by  
 8 another agency ~~except the General Assembly, the courts, and the Governor,~~  
 9 that has the duty to license, register, certify, or otherwise approve a  
 10 person to work in a particular field or industry.

11 (2) As used in subdivision (f)(1) of this section "agency"  
 12 does not include the General Assembly, the courts, or the Governor.

13  
 14 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 1, Subchapter 1, is amended  
 15 to add an additional section to read as follows:

16 17-1-108. Reciprocity.

17 (a)(1) It is the intent of the General Assembly to ensure that a  
 18 person may be credentialed to work in Arkansas if he or she generally  
 19 demonstrates the skills and ethics required by state law based on the  
 20 person's experience and credentials in another state.

21 (2) It is not the intent of the General Assembly to cause the  
 22 licensing entity to engage in simple comparisons of the required hours of  
 23 training and other personal qualifications under Arkansas's occupational  
 24 licensing statutes with those qualifications required in the state where the  
 25 person is credentialed.

26 (b) A licensing entity shall by rule adopt the least restrictive  
 27 requirements for licensing, registration, or certification for a person who:

28 (1) Demonstrates that he or she:

29 (A) Was previously licensed, registered, or certified for  
 30 a term specified by rule of the licensing entity to practice in the field of  
 31 his or her profession in another state;

32 (B) Holds his or her license in good standing;

33 (C) Has not had his or her license revoked for:

34 (i) An act of bad faith; or

35 (ii) A violation of law, rule, or ethics;

36 (D) Is not holding a suspended or probationary license in

1 any state; and

2 (E) Is sufficiently competent in his or her field; and

3 (2) Pays any licensing, registration, or certification fee  
4 required by law.

5 (c)(1)(A) A licensing entity shall comply with the requirements under  
6 subsection (b) of this section by adopting a rule that is least restrictive  
7 that allows for state-to-state reciprocity.

8 (B) The rule under subdivision (c)(1)(A) of this section  
9 shall provide the procedure by which a licensing entity shall grant a one-  
10 year temporary reciprocal license or permit to a person under subsection (b)  
11 of this section.

12 (2) If a state does not require licensing, registration, or  
13 certification for a profession that requires licensing, registration, or  
14 certification in this state, a licensing entity shall adopt a rule that is  
15 least restrictive to permit a person to obtain licensing, registration, or  
16 certification for that profession in this state.

17 (d)(1) Except as provided under subdivision (d)(2) of this section, a  
18 licensing entity shall not require a person who meets the requirements of  
19 subsection (b) of this section to participate in the apprenticeship,  
20 education, or training required as a prerequisite to licensing, registration,  
21 or certification of a new professional in the field.

22 (2) The licensing entity may require the person to participate  
23 in continuing education or training if the continuing education or training  
24 is required for all professionals in the field to maintain the license,  
25 registration, or certification.

26 (e) If a criminal background check is required of a person currently  
27 holding a license, registration, or certification, then the licensing entity  
28 may require a person seeking a license, registration, or certification under  
29 this section to meet the same criminal background check requirements as the  
30 person currently holding a license, registration, or certification.

31 (f)(1) As used in this section "licensing entity" means an agency,  
32 board, commission, department, committee, or other authority of the  
33 government of the State of Arkansas, whether within or subject to review by  
34 another agency, that has the duty to license, register, certify, or otherwise  
35 approve a person to work in a particular field or industry.

36 (2) As used in subdivision (f)(1) of this section "agency" does

1 not include the General Assembly, the courts, or the Governor.

2  
3 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 17-12-308 is repealed.

4 ~~17-12-308. Reciprocity.~~

5 ~~(a) With regard to applicants that do not qualify for reciprocity~~  
6 ~~under the substantial equivalency standard set out in § 17-12-311, the~~  
7 ~~Arkansas State Board of Public Accountancy shall issue a certificate as a~~  
8 ~~certified public accountant to a holder of a certificate, license, or permit~~  
9 ~~issued by another state upon a showing that:~~

10 ~~(1) The applicant passed the examination required for issuance~~  
11 ~~of the applicant's certificate with grades that would have been passing~~  
12 ~~grades at the time in this state;~~

13 ~~(2) The applicant:~~

14 ~~(A) Meets all current requirements in this state for~~  
15 ~~issuance of a certificate at the time application is made;~~

16 ~~(B) At the time of the issuance of the applicant's~~  
17 ~~certificate, license, or permit in the other state met all such requirements~~  
18 ~~then applicable in this state; or~~

19 ~~(C) Had four (4) years of experience outside of this state~~  
20 ~~in the practice of public accounting or meets equivalent requirements~~  
21 ~~prescribed by the board by rule after passing the examination upon which the~~  
22 ~~applicant's certificate was based and within the ten (10) years immediately~~  
23 ~~preceding the application;~~

24 ~~(3) The applicant has had experience in the practice of public~~  
25 ~~accounting meeting the requirements of § 17-12-309; and~~

26 ~~(4) The applicant has fulfilled the continuing education~~  
27 ~~requirements applicable under § 17-12-502.~~

28 ~~(b) As an alternative to the requirements of § 17-12-308(a), a~~  
29 ~~certificate holder licensed by another state who establishes his or her~~  
30 ~~principal place of business in this state shall request the issuance of a~~  
31 ~~certificate from the board prior to establishing such a principal place of~~  
32 ~~business. The board shall issue a certificate to such a person who obtains~~  
33 ~~from the NASBA National Qualification Appraisal Service verification that the~~  
34 ~~individual's CPA qualifications are substantially equivalent to the CPA~~  
35 ~~licensure requirements of the AICPA/NASBA Uniform Accountancy Act.~~

36 ~~(c) The board shall issue a certificate to a holder of a substantially~~

1 ~~equivalent foreign designation, provided that:~~

2 ~~(1) The foreign authority which granted the designation makes~~  
 3 ~~similar provision to allow a person who holds a valid certificate issued by~~  
 4 ~~this state to obtain the foreign authority's comparable designation; and~~

5 ~~(2) The foreign designation:~~

6 ~~(A) Was duly issued by a foreign authority that regulates~~  
 7 ~~the practice of public accountancy and the foreign designation has not~~  
 8 ~~expired or been revoked or suspended;~~

9 ~~(B) Entitles the holder to issue reports upon financial~~  
 10 ~~statements; and~~

11 ~~(C) Was issued upon the basis of education, examination,~~  
 12 ~~and experience requirements established by the foreign authority or by law;~~  
 13 ~~and~~

14 ~~(3) The applicant:~~

15 ~~(A) Received the designation, based on education and~~  
 16 ~~examination standards substantially equivalent to those in effect in this~~  
 17 ~~state, at the time the foreign designation was granted;~~

18 ~~(B) Completed an experience requirement substantially~~  
 19 ~~equivalent to the requirement set out in § 17-12-309 in the jurisdiction~~  
 20 ~~which granted the foreign designation or has completed four (4) years of~~  
 21 ~~professional experience in this state or meets equivalent requirements~~  
 22 ~~prescribed by the board by rule, within the ten (10) years immediately~~  
 23 ~~preceding the application; and~~

24 ~~(C) Passed a uniform qualifying examination in national~~  
 25 ~~standards acceptable to the board.~~

26 ~~(d) An applicant under subsection (c) of this section shall in the~~  
 27 ~~application list all jurisdictions, foreign and domestic, in which the~~  
 28 ~~applicant has applied for or holds a designation to practice public~~  
 29 ~~accountancy, and each holder of a certificate issued under this subsection~~  
 30 ~~shall notify the board in writing, within thirty (30) days after its~~  
 31 ~~occurrence, of any issuance, denial, revocation, or suspension of a~~  
 32 ~~designation or commencement of a disciplinary or enforcement action by any~~  
 33 ~~jurisdiction.~~

34  
 35 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 17-26-315 is repealed.

36 ~~17-26-315. Reciprocity.~~

1           Upon application to the Department of Health in the form provided for  
2 the particular class of license applied for, accompanied by the required fee,  
3 a person licensed as a cosmetologist, electrologist, manicurist,  
4 aesthetician, or instructor under the laws of another state shall be granted  
5 a license to practice the occupation or occupations in this state not of  
6 greater scope than the occupation or occupations for which the applicant was  
7 previously licensed in the other state, upon the following conditions:

8           (1) That the applicant for a license as a cosmetologist,  
9 manicurist, or aesthetician is not less than eighteen (18) years of age, and  
10 the applicant for a license as an instructor or electrologist is not less  
11 than twenty-one (21) years of age;

12           (2) That the applicant holds a current valid license upon  
13 application for reciprocity, evidenced by a certified copy of the license and  
14 an affidavit from the other state or by such other evidence as the department  
15 may require;

16           (3) That the applicant has passed an examination comparable to  
17 the examination given in this state; and

18           (4) That the applicant passes an Arkansas law examination under  
19 this chapter.

20  
21           SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 17-27-308 is repealed.

22           ~~17-27-308. Reciprocity.~~

23           ~~(a) At its discretion, the Arkansas Board of Examiners in Counseling~~  
24 ~~may waive formal examination requirements of a candidate who is licensed or~~  
25 ~~certified to practice counseling or marriage and family therapy by a similar~~  
26 ~~board in another state if, in the opinion of the board, the standards and~~  
27 ~~qualifications required for the practice of counseling in the candidate's~~  
28 ~~licensing state are at least equal to those required by this chapter.~~

29           ~~(b) The board has the power to waive formal examination requirements~~  
30 ~~only and does not have the power to waive any required period of supervision~~  
31 ~~as provided in this chapter.~~

32  
33           SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 17-28-306 is repealed.

34           ~~17-28-306. Reciprocity.~~

35           ~~The Board of Electrical Examiners of the State of Arkansas shall be~~  
36 ~~authorized to issue licenses to those applicants holding equivalent licenses~~

1 ~~in other states, upon payment of the required fees and submission of proof of~~  
 2 ~~license in that state, provided an agreement has been reached with that state~~  
 3 ~~to recognize the electrical licenses held by Arkansas residents.~~

4  
 5 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 17-31-308 is repealed.

6 ~~17-31-308. Reciprocity.~~

7 ~~Upon application therefor and the payment of a fee set by the Arkansas~~  
 8 ~~State Board of Registration for Foresters, the board may issue a certificate~~  
 9 ~~of registration as a registered forester in Arkansas to any qualified person~~  
 10 ~~of any state of the United States or its possessions, or Canada, provided~~  
 11 ~~that:~~

12 ~~(1) The person is a legally registered forester or the~~  
 13 ~~equivalent in the person's own state or province and has submitted evidence~~  
 14 ~~satisfactory to the board that the person is so registered and that the~~  
 15 ~~requirements therein are substantially equivalent to the requirements of~~  
 16 ~~registration under this chapter; and~~

17 ~~(2) The state in which the person is so registered will accept~~  
 18 ~~the certificates of registration issued by the board on a reciprocal basis.~~

19  
 20 SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 17-36-304 is repealed.

21 ~~17-36-304. Reciprocity.~~

22 ~~The Arkansas State Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, and~~  
 23 ~~Interior Designers may provide for licensure of an applicant who is legally~~  
 24 ~~registered or licensed as a landscape architect in any other state whose~~  
 25 ~~qualifications for licensure are generally equivalent to those of Arkansas.~~

26  
 27 SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 17-43-307 is repealed.

28 ~~17-43-307. Reciprocity.~~

29 ~~The Arkansas State Board of Sanitarians shall issue a certificate of~~  
 30 ~~registration without examination to any person who makes application on forms~~  
 31 ~~prescribed and furnished by the board, pays a registration fee of ten dollars~~  
 32 ~~(\$10.00), and submits satisfactory proof that he or she:~~

33 ~~(1) Is of good moral character;~~

34 ~~(2) Has had at least two (2) years' experience in the field of~~  
 35 ~~environmental sanitation; and~~

36 ~~(3) Is registered as a sanitarian in a state in which the~~



1 ~~qualifications for registration are not lower than the qualifications for~~  
2 ~~registration in this state at the time he or she applies for registration.~~

3  
4 SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 17-53-208 is repealed.

5 ~~17-53-208. Reciprocity.~~

6 ~~Reciprocity shall be provided for certified health educators from other~~  
7 ~~states provided that the standards for certification in that state are not~~  
8 ~~less than those provided for in this chapter as determined by the Arkansas~~  
9 ~~Board of Health Education.~~

10  
11 SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 17-83-305 is repealed.

12 ~~17-83-305. Reciprocity.~~

13 ~~Reciprocity shall be provided for licensed dietitians from other~~  
14 ~~states, provided that the standards for licensing in that state are not less~~  
15 ~~than those provided for in this chapter as determined by the Arkansas~~  
16 ~~Dietetics Licensing Board.~~

17  
18 SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 17-88-305 is repealed.

19 ~~17-88-305. Reciprocity.~~

20 ~~(a) A licensed occupational therapist who has been issued a license to~~  
21 ~~practice occupational therapy in another state or territory whose~~  
22 ~~requirements for registration and licensure were equal at the time of his or~~  
23 ~~her registration to the requirements in this chapter may be registered and~~  
24 ~~issued a license by the Arkansas State Medical Board, provided that the state~~  
25 ~~or territory from which the applicant comes accords a similar privilege of~~  
26 ~~registration and licensure to persons registered and licensed in the State of~~  
27 ~~Arkansas by the board.~~

28 ~~(b) The issuance of a license by reciprocity by the board shall be at~~  
29 ~~the sole discretion of the board, and the board may provide such rules and~~  
30 ~~regulations governing admission as it may deem necessary or desirable.~~

31 ~~(c) Any occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant who~~  
32 ~~has been certified by the American Occupational Therapy Association and who~~  
33 ~~has been in continuous practice for the past five (5) years and who comes to~~  
34 ~~Arkansas from a state presently not granting reciprocity or from a state not~~  
35 ~~requiring licensing shall be eligible for licensing in Arkansas.~~

36

1 SECTION 13. Arkansas Code § 17-89-305 is repealed.

2 ~~17-89-305. Reciprocity.~~

3 ~~(a) Any person who desires to provide ophthalmic dispensing services~~  
4 ~~to the public as a licensed or registered dispensing optician in this state~~  
5 ~~and who holds a current validated certificate of licensure or registry as a~~  
6 ~~dispensing optician in a state whose requirements for licensure or registry~~  
7 ~~are in the opinion of the Arkansas Board of Dispensing Opticians at least~~  
8 ~~equivalent to those of this state may at the discretion of the board be~~  
9 ~~issued a certificate of licensure or a certificate of registry.~~

10 ~~(b) The certificate may be issued without a written or practical~~  
11 ~~examination upon payment of the fee prescribed in § 17-89-304(f) to the~~  
12 ~~Secretary-treasurer of the Arkansas Board of Dispensing Opticians and upon~~  
13 ~~satisfactory proof that the applicant:~~

14 ~~(1) Is qualified under the provisions of this chapter;~~

15 ~~(2) Is of good moral character;~~

16 ~~(3) Has provided ophthalmic dispensing services to the public as~~  
17 ~~a dispensing optician in the state of licensure or registration for a period~~  
18 ~~of at least five (5) years for licensure or three (3) years for registration~~  
19 ~~immediately prior to his or her application for reciprocity to this state;~~  
20 ~~and~~

21 ~~(4) Is licensed or registered in a state which grants like~~  
22 ~~reciprocal privileges to opticians who hold certificates of licensure or~~  
23 ~~registry issued by this state.~~

24  
25 SECTION 14. Arkansas Code § 17-90-302 is repealed.

26 ~~17-90-302. Reciprocity.~~

27 ~~(a) Any person from another state desiring to engage in the practice~~  
28 ~~of optometry in this state may be issued a certificate at the sole discretion~~  
29 ~~of the State Board of Optometry without a written examination upon~~  
30 ~~satisfactory proof that he or she:~~

31 ~~(1) Is qualified under this chapter;~~

32 ~~(2) Has been issued a certificate or license to practice~~  
33 ~~optometry by a state having licensure requirements at least equal in scope~~  
34 ~~and standards to Arkansas with whom the board has an agreement of~~  
35 ~~reciprocity; and~~

36 ~~(3) Has engaged in the practice of optometry for a period of~~

1 ~~three (3) years in the other state and has complied with all the requirements~~  
2 ~~of the Arkansas licensure law at the time of application.~~

3 ~~(b) He or she shall be required to pay a fee to the Secretary-~~  
4 ~~treasurer of the State Board of Optometry for registration in a reasonable~~  
5 ~~amount to be fixed by the board.~~

6  
7 SECTION 15. Arkansas Code § 17-92-114 is repealed.

8 ~~17-92-114. Reciprocity.~~

9 ~~The Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy may adopt rules applicable to a~~  
10 ~~pharmacy or a pharmacist licensed in another state that renders services in~~  
11 ~~Arkansas that mirror qualifications, requirements, prerogatives,~~  
12 ~~prohibitions, and limitations imposed by the other state on Arkansas~~  
13 ~~pharmacies and pharmacists rendering services in the other state.~~

14  
15 SECTION 16. Arkansas Code § 17-92-308 is repealed.

16 ~~17-92-308. Reciprocity.~~

17 ~~(a) The Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy, in its discretion, may~~  
18 ~~license as a pharmacist, through the process of reciprocity as established by~~  
19 ~~the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, any person who is duly~~  
20 ~~licensed in some other state, territory, or the District of Columbia if the~~  
21 ~~territory, state, or the District of Columbia has the same general~~  
22 ~~requirements for licensure as Arkansas at the time of original licensure,~~  
23 ~~provided that the state, territory, or the District of Columbia in which the~~  
24 ~~person is licensed shall, under like conditions, grant reciprocal licensure~~  
25 ~~to a pharmacist duly licensed by examination in this state.~~

26 ~~(b) All applications for a reciprocal license shall be accompanied by~~  
27 ~~the fee prescribed by § 17-92-108.~~

28 ~~(c)(1) In the interim between sessions of the board and upon~~  
29 ~~satisfactory evidence of the fitness as established by board regulation of an~~  
30 ~~applicant for reciprocity, any member of the board, in his or her discretion,~~  
31 ~~may issue a temporary certificate that shall authorize the holder to practice~~  
32 ~~pharmacy as defined in § 17-92-101.~~

33 ~~(2) The temporary certificate shall expire on the date of the~~  
34 ~~next meeting of the board after the granting of the certificate whether that~~  
35 ~~meeting is a regular meeting or a called meeting at which reciprocity is~~  
36 ~~considered.~~

1  
2 SECTION 17. Arkansas Code § 17-93-414 is repealed.

3 ~~17-93-414. Reciprocity.~~

4 ~~(a) A licensed athletic trainer who has been issued a license to~~  
5 ~~practice as an athletic trainer in another state or territory whose~~  
6 ~~requirements for registration and licensure were equal, at the time of~~  
7 ~~registration or licensure, to the requirements contained in this subchapter~~  
8 ~~may be registered and issued a license by the Arkansas State Board of~~  
9 ~~Athletic Training, provided the other state or territory accords a similar~~  
10 ~~privilege of registration and licensure to persons registered and licensed in~~  
11 ~~the State of Arkansas by the board.~~

12 ~~(b) The issuance of a license by reciprocity shall be at the sole~~  
13 ~~discretion of the board.~~

14  
15 SECTION 18. Arkansas Code § 17-97-306 is repealed.

16 ~~17-97-306. Reciprocity.~~

17 ~~At its discretion, the Arkansas Psychology Board may grant a~~  
18 ~~certificate without an assembled examination to any person residing or~~  
19 ~~employed in the state who:~~

20 ~~(1) At the time of application is licensed or certified by a~~  
21 ~~similar board of another state whose standards, in the opinion of the board,~~  
22 ~~are not lower than those required by this chapter or who has been practicing~~  
23 ~~psychology in another state and has qualifications not lower than those~~  
24 ~~required by this chapter; and~~

25 ~~(2) Is able to satisfy the board that to grant him or her a~~  
26 ~~license would be in the public interest.~~

27  
28 SECTION 19. Arkansas Code § 17-99-304 is repealed.

29 ~~17-99-304. Reciprocity.~~

30 ~~(a) A legally licensed practitioner who has been issued a license to~~  
31 ~~practice respiratory care in another state or territory whose requirements~~  
32 ~~for registration and licensure were at the time of his or her registration or~~  
33 ~~licensure equal to the requirements contained in this chapter may be~~  
34 ~~registered and issued a license by the Arkansas State Medical Board if the~~  
35 ~~state or territory from which the applicant comes accords a similar privilege~~  
36 ~~of registration and licensure to persons registered and licensed in the State~~

1 ~~of Arkansas by the board.~~

2 ~~(b) The issuance of the license by reciprocity by the board shall be~~  
 3 ~~at the sole discretion of the board, and the board may provide rules and~~  
 4 ~~regulations governing such admission as it may deem necessary or desirable.~~

6 SECTION 20. Arkansas Code § 17-100-304 is repealed.

7 ~~17-100-304. Reciprocity.~~

8 ~~(a) The Board of Examiners in Speech Language Pathology and Audiology~~  
 9 ~~may waive the examination and grant a license to any applicant who shall~~  
 10 ~~present proof of current licensure in another state, the District of~~  
 11 ~~Columbia, or territory of the United States which maintains professional~~  
 12 ~~standards considered by the board to be equivalent to those set forth in this~~  
 13 ~~chapter.~~

14 ~~(b) The board may waive the examination and grant a license to any~~  
 15 ~~person certified as clinically competent by the American Speech Language-~~  
 16 ~~Hearing Association, the American Academy of Audiology, or the American Board~~  
 17 ~~of Audiology in the area for which the person is applying for licensure.~~

18 ~~(c) A person certified by the American Speech Language Hearing~~  
 19 ~~Association, the American Academy of Audiology, or the American Board of~~  
 20 ~~Audiology or licensed under the law of another state, a territory of the~~  
 21 ~~United States, or the District of Columbia and that has requirements at least~~  
 22 ~~equal to those of Arkansas as a speech pathologist or audiologist who has~~  
 23 ~~applied for a license and paid the appropriate fees may perform speech~~  
 24 ~~pathology and audiology services in this state.~~

26 SECTION 21. Arkansas Code § 17-103-302 is repealed.

27 ~~17-103-302. Reciprocity.~~

28 ~~The Arkansas Social Work Licensing Board may grant a license without~~  
 29 ~~examination to a person meeting all of the other requirements of this chapter~~  
 30 ~~and who at the time of application is licensed as a social worker by a~~  
 31 ~~similar board of another state, territory, district, or Canadian province~~  
 32 ~~whose standards, in the opinion of the board, are not lower than those~~  
 33 ~~required by this chapter.~~

35 SECTION 22. DO NOT CODIFY. Applicability.

36 (a) This section is applicable to the following licensing entities:

- 1           (1) Arkansas State Board of Public Accountancy;
- 2           (2) Cosmetology Technical Advisory Committee;
- 3           (3) Arkansas Board of Examiners in Counseling;
- 4           (4) Board of Electrical Examiners of the State of Arkansas;
- 5           (5) Arkansas State Board of Registration for Foresters;
- 6           (6) Arkansas State Board of Landscape Architects;
- 7           (7) Arkansas State Board of Sanitarians;
- 8           (8) Arkansas Board of Health Education;
- 9           (9) Arkansas Dietetics Licensing Board;
- 10          (10) Arkansas State Medical Board;
- 11          (11) Arkansas State Occupational Therapy Examining Committee;
- 12          (12) Arkansas Board of Dispensing Opticians;
- 13          (13) State Board of Optometry;
- 14          (14) Arkansas State Board of Pharmacy;
- 15          (15) Arkansas State Board of Physical Therapy;
- 16          (16) Arkansas Psychology Board;
- 17          (17) Arkansas State Respiratory Care Examining Committee;
- 18          (18) Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and
- 19          Audiology; and
- 20          (19) Arkansas Social Work Licensing Board.

21           (b) The licensing entities under this section may continue to use the  
22           respective reciprocity practices being repealed by Sections 3-21 of this act  
23           until the rules required under this act are adopted.

24           (c) The licensing entities under this section shall adopt the rules  
25           required under this act no later than eighteen (18) months after the  
26           effective date of this act.