

Lessons from the Learning Consortium



PUBLIC PROTECTION

Licensure protects the public by ensuring that professionals are competent and safe.

Licensure requires qualifications are met before the license is issued.

If a licensee commits unprofessional conduct, they can be quickly removed from the marketplace.



WORKFORCE AND ECONOMY

1 in 4 jobs in the US require a government license.

Licensure is a barrier to the workforce and increases the cost of doing business, restricts employment opportunities, restricts interstate services and disproportionately impacts certain populations (military, immigrants, criminal background).



Consortium Goals

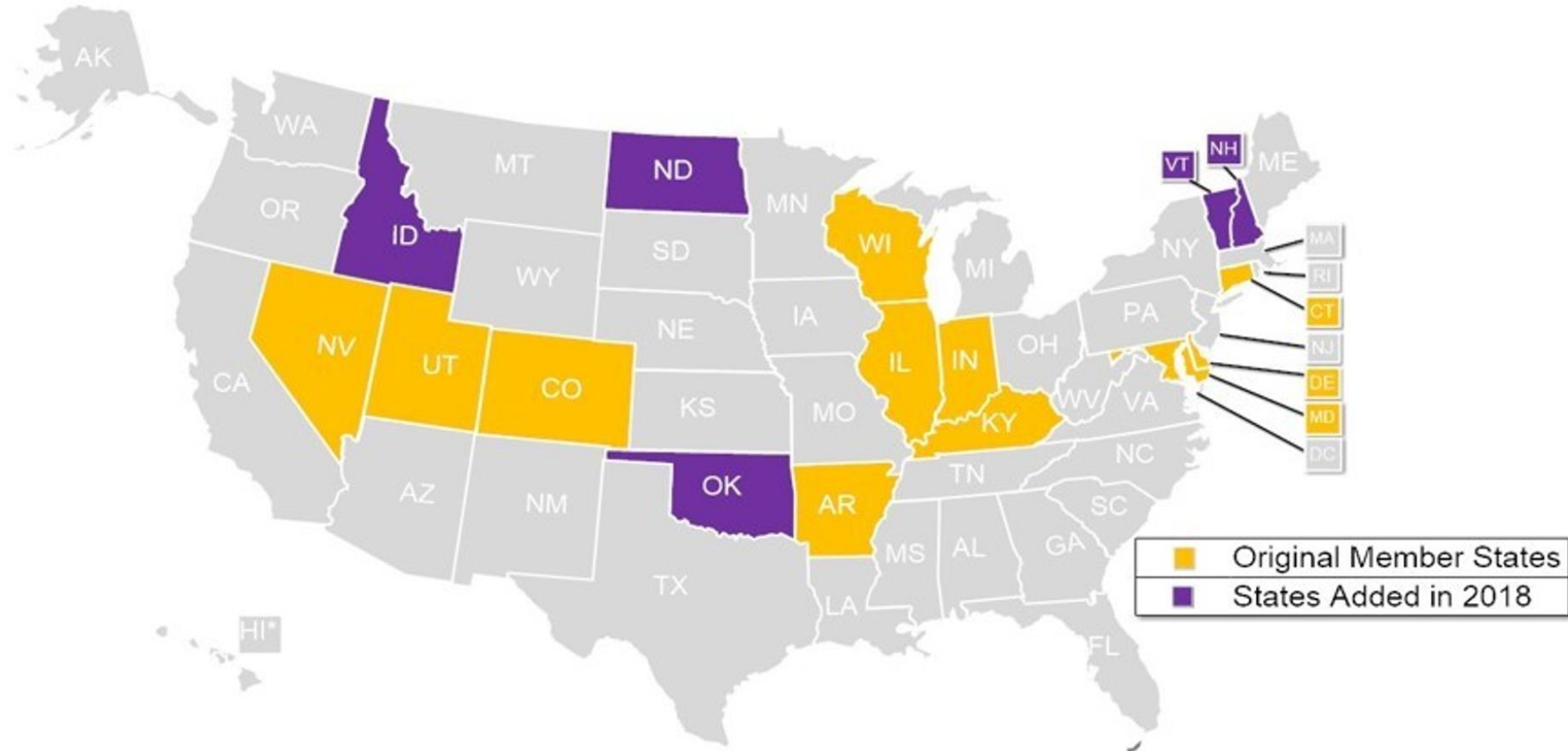
Under the Trump Administration the Federal Department on Labor established a grant for states to focus on Occupational Licensure with the goals. This grant was continued under the Biden Administration. The “Consortium” was formed, and the goals were:

- Reducing barriers
- Streamlining requirements
- Increasing mobility

Consortium Partners:

- NCSL – National Conference of State Legislatures
- CSG – The Council of State Governments
- NGA - National Governor’s Association.

Occupational Licensing Learning Consortium





Vermont is one of the less-regulated states when it comes to professional and occupational licensing. Our statutes and administrative rules are designed to promote the least restrictive method of regulation to maintain public protection.

Under the leadership of Secretary Jim Condos, with bipartisan cooperation from the Legislature and Governor, and with support of a Federal Department of Labor grant, OPR has crafted and implemented policies making Vermont a national leader in licensing reform.



Fast Track Endorsement

Individuals with an active license or certification in good standing and a minimum of three years of practice in another U.S. jurisdiction may join the licensed workforce in Vermont.

Foreign Credentials



Foreign-educated and trained refugees, immigrants and new Americans may expedite licensure in Vermont. Under OPR's rule for assessing professional credentials obtained outside the US, applicants with equivalent work experience, education, training, and/or examinations may join the licensed workforce.



Nurse Licensure Compact

Under the NLC, nurses can practice in other NLC states, without having to obtain additional licenses. The objective is to increase access to care by increasing the workforce while maintaining public protection at the state level.

Second Chance Determination



To an applicant, it is important to know if their criminal conviction is prohibitive before investing time or money in training and education. Through second chance determination, individuals with a criminal background may request a binding assessment regarding whether their criminal background would disqualify them from joining the licensed workforce in Vermont.

Military Experience



OPR works to use military experience and training towards qualifications for occupational licensure. For example, OPR currently licenses Military Medics as LPNs or LNAs and waives licensure fees for active military and veterans.



COVID-19

Vermont passed emergency legislation that enabled adequate health care workforce. In response to COVID-19, OPR was able to:

- Allow telehealth services without a license or registration
- Allow retired licensees to practice
- Establish emergency guidance for professionals
- Establish emergency licenses to applicants who could not test due to shutdowns

Telehealth

Reducing barriers to telehealth has gained substantial support in Vermont. OPR facilitated a working group in 2021 to provide recommendations to the Legislature regarding telehealth.

Act 107 (2022) sets up telehealth registration and licensure for out-of-state providers on a permanent basis.



Occupational Licensing Lessons Learned in Arkansas

June 20, 2022

Process for Licensing Reform in Arkansas



Core Team

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Process for Reform in Arkansas



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Process for Reform in Arkansas



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Process for Reform in Arkansas

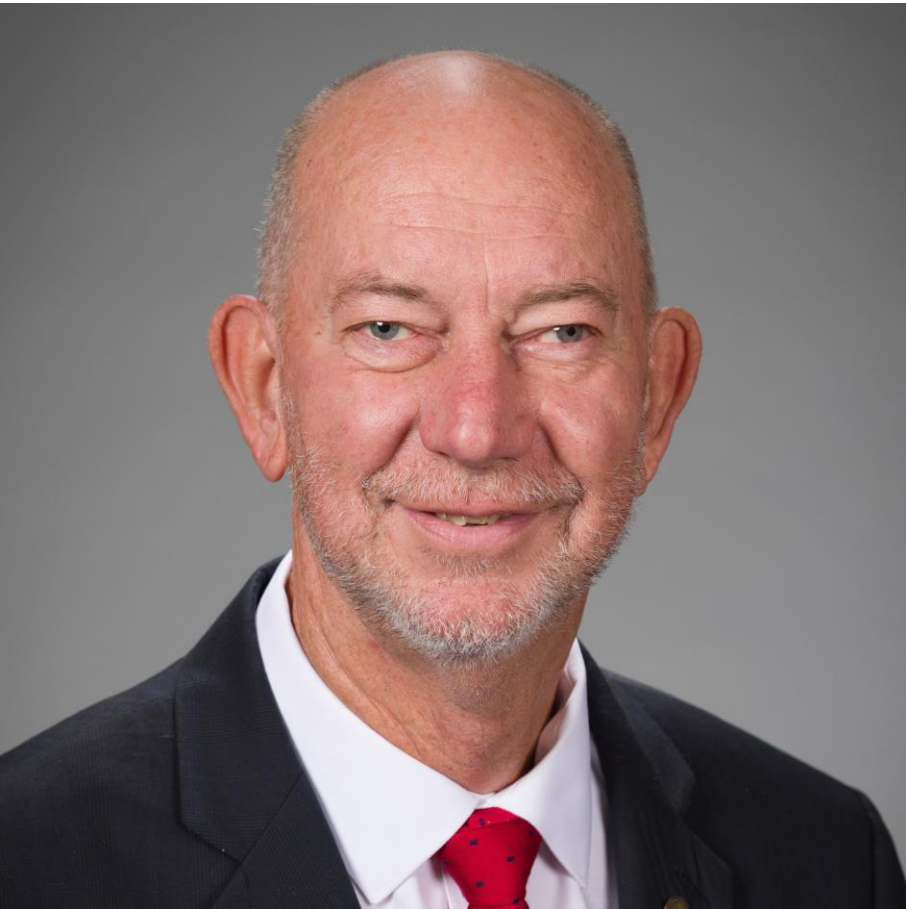


Red Tape Reduction Group

Richard Womack

State Representative

Process for Reform in Arkansas



Red Tape Reduction Group

Bruce Cozart

State Representative

Process for Reform in Arkansas



Recommendations that became law

- Overcame burdensome or vague criminal background restrictions.
- Improved processes for licensing military veterans and military spouses.
- Streamlined rule-making approaches.
- Improved portability of licenses from other states.

Process for Reform in Arkansas



Act 600 of 2019

- Creates sunrise and sunset review for licensing
- Establishes the Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council to carry out these reviews.
- Directs a systematic approach of considering new licensing proposals and to review existing ones on a regular, cyclical basis.

Sustaining and Furthering Reforms

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- Advisory group reorganized and continued studies to continue occupational licensing reform.
- Governor established a new working group focusing on sustaining reforms.
- Many of its recommendations were adopted by the General Assembly last year. New laws continued removing barriers resulting from criminal records and clarifying licensing procedures for uniformed services.



Utah's Progress on Occupational Freedom

June 20, 2022

Key Areas of Significant Progress



- Recognition of licenses from other states
- Portability for veterans and military families
- Reduced burdens of criminal history and “good moral character” clauses
- Creation of a new office with resources to review (including sunrise/sunset) occupational burdens
- Reduced licensing burden on most trades
- Interstate compacts
- Competency based alternatives
- Telehealth