
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



Memo published: November 16, 2023

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2023 Assembly Bill 332

**Assembly
Substitute Amendment 1**

BACKGROUND

Under current law, many of the health and business credentials administered by the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) or a credentialing board have a credential-specific reciprocal standard. Each standard establishes the eligibility criteria for issuing a reciprocal credential for that profession to a person who already possesses a similar credential in another jurisdiction. The most common standard requires that an out-of-state credential have eligibility criteria that are “substantially equivalent” to the criteria for the equivalent Wisconsin credential.

A service member, former service member, or spouse of a service member or former service member may apply for a reciprocal credential under a universal standard that applies to many of Wisconsin’s occupational credentials. Under this standard, DSPS, a credentialing board, and the Veterinary Examining Board must grant a reciprocal credential if the service member, former service member, or spouse resides in Wisconsin and holds a credential from a different jurisdiction that qualifies the person to perform the acts authorized under the Wisconsin credential for which the person is applying. The person must be in good standing in every jurisdiction in which the person holds the credential.

2023 ASSEMBLY BILL 332

Assembly Bill 332 expands the universal licensure recognition process that currently applies only to service members, former service members, and spouses of service members or former service members, which allows individuals to obtain a reciprocal credential based on the scope of practice of the individual’s current out-of-state credential. The bill replaces the credential-specific standards in current law, which generally use the substantially equivalent approach, with universal licensure recognition.

The bill also makes the following changes to the universal licensure recognition law:

- Removes the requirement that an applicant reside in this state;
- Clarifies the good standing requirement in current law to include not being under investigation by a credentialing authority outside the state;
- Specifies that only individuals and not legal entities are eligible for a reciprocal credential; and
- Specifies that temporary credentials and certain other credentials are not eligible for a reciprocal credential.

An individual may begin practicing under a provisional credential on the date the individual makes a complete application. The provisional credential expires on the date the application is approved or denied. The bill provides that a reciprocal credential holder must limit the holder’s practice to the scope of the holder’s experience, education, and training.

ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 does the following:

First, the amendment exempts certified public accountants, electricians, and credentials that authorize the limited practice of law from universal licensure recognition and leaves the current reciprocal process for these occupations in place.

Second, to be eligible for a reciprocal credential under universal licensure recognition an individual must have held the out-of-state credential for at least three of the previous five years.

Third, the individual must pass any applicable statutes and rules exam that is otherwise required of applicants for the relevant credential.

Fourth, the amendment prohibits DSPS and relevant examining and credentialing boards from requiring a statutes and rules exam as a requirement of licensure for certain occupations.¹ DSPS and the boards may require that an applicant affirm that the applicant has read and understands the statutes and rules that apply to the relevant occupation. This change applies to substance abuse counselors, advanced practice nurse prescribers, respiratory care practitioners, occupational therapists and occupational therapist assistants, pharmacists, and professional counselors.

Fifth, a veterinarian license is not subject to universal licensure recognition. Instead, the amendment removes the statutory requirements for a reciprocal license, makes reciprocity subject to administrative rules promulgated by the examining board, and a provision related to a temporary consulting permit to practice.²

BILL HISTORY

Representative Sortwell offered Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 on November 6, 2023. On November 8, 2023, the Assembly Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform recommended adoption of the amendment and passage of the bill, as amended, both on votes of Ayes, 6; Noes, 2.

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature's [bill history page](#).

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¹ The amendment adds the provisions of [2023 Assembly Bill 143](#), relating to prohibiting statutes and rules examinations for certain professions.

² The Veterinary Examining Board's current administrative rules have equivalent provisions to what the amendment removes from statute.