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TO: Assembly Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform
FROM: Senator Rob Stafsholt
DATE: May 24, 2023
SUBJECT: Testimony in Favor of Assembly Bill 203, 204 and 205

Thank you, Chairman Sortwell and members of the Assembly Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform, for allowing me to submit testimony in favor of Assembly Bill 203, 204 and 205.

Over the last couple of years, I have heard from many frustrated constituents that are dealing with unnecessary delays, confusion and lack of communication while attempting to get an occupational license from the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS). These unnecessary delays cause individuals to have to postpone starting their careers or stops them from entering the workforce. Wisconsin businesses are struggling to find qualified workers so we need to ensure our licensure process is streamlined and functions efficiently. We cannot afford to fall behind other states in attracting skilled individuals to live and work in our state.

In response, leadership created the Legislative Council Study Committee on Occupational Licenses, and Representative Sortwell and I were appointed as Chair and Vice-Chair. The study committee was created with the goal of finding solutions so current and future license holders can be licensed in a timely manner. In other words, we were tasked with finding long-term solutions that will fix the problems plaguing DSPS.

Through our conversations with licensed professionals, research and policy groups, and the Department of Safety and Professional Services, our study committee focused our bill recommendations on three primary issue areas: data tracking, workload simplification, and reciprocal credentialing.

For the second issue, the study committee looked at ways it could help DSPS and applicants have a simpler process, while maintaining integrity in the review of applications. Bills that fall in this issue area include:

- Assembly Bill 203, which clarifies that it is the applicant's responsibility to submit all renewal materials before the renewal date and also clarifies that if a complete renewal application is submitted by that date a person's license remains active and in effect.
- Assembly Bill 204, which changes the renewal periods from two years to four years.

For the third issue area of reciprocal credentialing, the study committee recommend Assembly Bill 205, which expands 2021 Wisconsin Act 10 to allow people in all business and health professions who are licensed in good standing in another state to work in Wisconsin under a preliminary credential while approval of the permanent credential is pending.

Study committee members broadly supported all of these bills and recommended them for introduction. We felt like these bills would improve processes and oversight. Thank you for your support of these bills and feel free to reach out with any questions.



May 24, 2023

TO: Assembly Committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform
FROM: Mike Tierney, Legislative Liaison, Department of Safety and Professional Services
RE: Assembly Bill 203 – Renewal of certain credentials

Good afternoon,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony on Assembly Bill 203.

In each of the past two legislative sessions, the department has pursued this issue in the Law Revision Committee. The intent was to clarify, for credential holders, that renewal submission is complete when they submit necessary forms and pay the fee for renewal. As such, the department supports Senate Bill 192 as introduced.

The provision in Chapter 227 allowing the department to keep a credential active when the credential holder has completed steps to renew is intended to protect the livelihood of the credential holder.

For example, while an RN can file for timely renewal until midnight on the last day of February of an even numbered year under current law, the processing of that renewal is not immediate. On March 1, the public look-up will reflect the credential is active, but the new expiration date two years in the future will not yet appear.

Most often, a person who completes the renewal but does not have their renewed credential within one or two days will have an issue that legally prevents an immediate, full renewal of the credential. Although statutes require the reporting of a conviction within 48 hours, many people do not report a conviction as required by law. When they renew and complete the attestation and report a conviction for the first time, the department is legally obligated to complete a review of the conviction prior to issuing a full renewal. Another issue that can prevent full renewal is a Department of Revenue hold which is in place due to a tax debt. Under statute, we are prohibited from fully renewing or issuing a new credential to a person who has a DOR hold.

Chapter 227 also protects the credential holder in the event there are any issues that would prevent department staff from completing their work on a renewal.



Wisconsin Society of Radiologic Technologists

May 19, 2023

Dear Chairperson Representative Sortwell,, Vice Chair Representative Gustafson, and all members of the Assembly committee on Regulatory Licensing Reform.

Please accept this testimony for the hearing on Assembly Bills 203, 204 and 205 from the Wisconsin Society of Radiologic Technologists. Thank you for this opportunity to offer input on this important legislation.

The Wisconsin Society of Radiologic Technologists (WSRT) is the professional organization of radiologic technologists in the state of Wisconsin, and an affiliate of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists. Radiologic Technologists are the gatekeepers of Standard of Care diagnostic imaging by providing optimum medical image quality for patients, at the lowest possible radiation exposure. The Wisconsin legislature recognized that there is a clear public health and safety benefit to licensing radiologic technologists by passing 2009 Wisconsin Act 106, enacted on February 4, 2010. Radiologic licensure ensures the trusting patient population of Wisconsin that the administration of diagnostic x-ray radiation is performed by qualified personnel in all health care settings.

The WSRT supports AB 203 and 204. Extending the renewal period from two years to four years while doubling the continuing education requirement will reduce the financial impact on license holders. This change is welcomed by many I have spoken with since becoming aware of the bill. The WSRT feels the impact of changing the frequency of renewal will have a positive impact on radiographers and their families, while not fundamentally changing our licensure requirement or negatively affecting patient care.

The WSRT also supports the provisions of AB 205 that address the provisional licensure of radiographers licensed in other states. Demands in the health care market over the past few years have led to health care providers hiring temporary radiographers to fill vacancies in radiology departments. Often radiographers from other licensed states fill these vacancies, and delays in licensing affect the understaffed radiology departments and the timeliness of patient care. Allowing licensed radiographers from other states to work with a provisional license would provide a working solution for delays that might have otherwise caused the temporary radiographers to pass on an assignment in Wisconsin for one in another state.

The WSRT appreciates that AB 203, 204 and 205 all uphold the principles of Chapter 462, created by the licensure law, and ensures that properly vetted personnel are employed in the field. Health care employers in Wisconsin would be very pleased to see the provisions of AB 205 enacted to enable qualified personnel to provide care while waiting for permanent licensure.

We thank this committee and the legislators who introduced and cosponsored this good-sense legislation for the promotion of quality and safe patient care in Wisconsin by credentialed and licensed individuals.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Vander Meulen B.A, R.T., (R)
WSRT Legislative Committee Chairperson
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Badger Institute testimony submitted to Assembly Committee on Regulatory
Licensing Reform in support of AB203, AB204 and AB205

May 22, 2023,

Chairman Sortwell and members of the Committee,

Wisconsin prohibits over 1 million citizens from working unless they have government permission. This is the root of the backlogs plaguing Wisconsin's Department of Safety and Professional Services.

Between 1996 and 2016, the number of fields requiring government certification increased by 84%. The state's population grew just over 10% during that same period. The state currently requires certification for 280 credential types. Government permission is required for anyone seeking to become an auctioneer, animal trainer, dance therapist, landscape architect, butter maker, manicurist, bartender, elevator helper, barber, taxidermist and soil erosion inspector — to name a few.

Our research shows that Wisconsin regulates too many professions in too many ways. We believe universal recognition of credentials in other states with similar standards would be helpful. But we also support multiple other bills, including three being considered by your committee today.

- **Assembly Bill 203**, which clarifies current law so someone renewing a license can continue to practice even if the DSPS is delayed in saying that renewal has been completed.
- **Assembly Bill 204**, which shifts two-year renewal cycles to four years, a move that should reduce the workload of both the DSPS and license holders.
- **Assembly Bill 205**, which extends to out-of-state individuals with business licenses a provision that already applies to out-of-state individuals with health care licenses. This bill would let them apply for a preliminary credential while an application for a permanent credential is pending.

Among the bills not being heard today that Badger Institute also supports are AB90 and AB143, bills that would give the Wisconsin Occupational Therapy Association more latitude to review license applications and limit DSPS's ability to require so-called statutes and rules examinations.

Finally, we also support AB 200 and 201, transparency and accountability bills that would require DSPS to track and report on the agency's progress, an entirely reasonable requirement.

Burdensome licensing requirements hurt Wisconsin workers and make the state a less attractive place to live. Overly onerous licensure regulation does little to promote health or safety and instead costs Wisconsinites jobs, income and the ability to care for their families. While just a start, we believe AB 203, 204 and 205 will begin to help address some of these issues.



Mike Nichols
President
Badger Institute