

Occupational Boards and Licensing

See full summary documents for additional detail

North Carolina State Bar Grievance Review Committee Extension – House Budget Technical Corrections.

SL 2025-4 (H74), Sec. 6.4

Section 6.4 of S.L. 2025-4 (House Bill 74) modifies the enabling legislation that created the North Carolina State Bar Grievance Review Committee (Committee) by doing all of the following:

- Extending the Committee's authority to operate until December 31, 2026 (under previous law, the Committee was set to expire upon submitting a report that was due by April 1, 2024).
- Repealing a reporting requirement to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations.
- Broadening the scope of the Committee's review to any aspect or area of the North Carolina State Bar that the Committee deems concerning or needing improvement.
- Allowing the President of the State Bar to designate a person to serve on the Committee on his or her behalf.

This section became effective May 14, 2025.

Social Work Interstate Licensure Compact.

SL 2025-7 (H231)

S.L. 2025-7 (House Bill 231) makes North Carolina a member of the Social Work Licensure Compact (Compact), facilitating the licensure of social workers across state lines.

All states who participate in the Compact must do the following:

- Have licensure, education, examination, and discipline standards.
- Participate in the Social Work Licensure Compact Commission's (Commission) data system, follow the Commission's rules, and nominate a delegate to participate in Commission meetings.
- Implement procedures to conduct criminal background checks and notify the Commission about any criminal or disciplinary activity of the state's licensees.
- Authorize individuals holding a multistate license to practice in the state.
- Designate the categories of social work that are eligible for multistate licenses. Member states can charge an additional fee for granting a multistate license.

All social workers participating in the Compact must:

- Hold an unencumbered license in a home state.
- Pay applicable fees.

- Pass a criminal background check.
- Notify the home state of any adverse action taken by any other state.
- Meet continuing education requirements.
- Follow the laws of the state in which the client is located when care is provided.

Once a state determines an applicant has submitted a valid application for multistate licensure, it must issue the multistate license at the appropriate licensure level.

Nothing in the Compact can be construed to limit a state licensing authority's ability to enforce its own laws and regulations, issue single-state licenses, or take adverse action against a single or multistate licensee practicing in the state.

Only home states can take adverse action against a regulated social worker's multistate license. Remote states can only take action against the authorization for an individual to practice remotely in that one state. Remote states can report conduct warranting adverse action to a licensee's home state. Member states can take notice of the investigation results of any other member state. Results of any investigation must be reported to the Compact's data center where it will be accessible to all member states.

The Compact will be administered by the Commission, which has the power to levy fees on member states to fund its operations and powers necessary to implement the provisions of the Compact.

This act became effective October 1, 2025.

Accounting Workforce Development Act.

SL 2025-35 (S321)

S.L. 2025-35 (Senate Bill 321) authorizes a person seeking to practice as a certified public accountant (CPA) to satisfy the education and work experience requirements for licensure by (i) receiving a bachelor's or higher degree from an accredited college or university with a concentration in accounting and other courses that the State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners may require and (ii) having two years of experience in the field of accounting under the direct supervision of a CPA who is currently licensed in any state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia.

This act becomes effective January 1, 2026.

Pharmacist Test and Treat – Healthcare Workforce Reforms.

SL 2025-37 (H67), Part V

Part V of S.L. 2025-37 (House Bill 67) allows licensed pharmacists to test for and treat influenza. It requires insurers to cover healthcare services lawfully provided by pharmacists if those services would have been covered had they been provided by a different healthcare provider. It also

standardizes the credentialing process of pharmacists by insurers and clarifies that the coverage requirements for prescription drugs apply to third-party administrators and pharmacy benefits managers, as well as insurers.

This Part became effective October 1, 2025.

Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Reforms – Healthcare Workforce Reforms.

SL 2025-37 (H67), Part X

Part X of S.L. 2025-37 (House Bill 67) amends the licensure by reciprocity provisions for marriage and family therapists by: (i) reducing the practical experience requirement from five years to two years, and (ii) allowing applicants to pass the exam required by the marriage and family therapy board in California, in lieu of the national exam.

This Part became effective October 1, 2025, and will apply to applications for licensure on or after that date.

Allow Physical Therapists in School Concussion Protocol.

SL 2025-49 (H928)

S.L. 2025-49 (House Bill 928) adds physical therapists licensed under Article 18E of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes to the list of medical professionals approved to evaluate students who have exhibited signs of concussion when participating in an interscholastic athletic activity and provide written clearance for the students to return to play or practice in the athletic activity.

This act became effective July 2, 2025.

Alarms Systems Licensing Act Modernization – Department of Public Safety Agency Changes.

SL 2025-51 (S710), Part I

Part I of S.L. 2025-51 (Senate Bill 710) makes the following changes to the Alarm Systems Licensing Act:

- Renames it as the "Security Systems Licensing Act" and makes conforming changes.
- Updates the definition of "security systems business" to include:
 - Any solicitation for the sale of a security system.
 - Wireless or hardwired alarm devices and security systems.
 - Integrated automation of a residence or business that includes a security element.
 - Analytic capturing devices, systems providing intelligence, or other imaging devices used to detect various illegal activities

- Adds additional requirements an applicant must meet to become a qualifying agent and grants the Director of the Security Systems Licensing Board additional discretionary authority related to the extension of time to find substitute qualifying agents.
- Requires out-of-state monitoring companies to obtain a license and register employees if the company is not licensed in any state.
- Gives the Security Systems Licensing Board additional powers related to investigating unlicensed activity, engaging in real property transactions, and denying, suspending, or revoking a license or registration.
- Updates requirements and conditions for issuing licenses, registrations, and permits.
- Removes outdated and unnecessary language and recodifies certain provisions.

This Part became effective October 1, 2025.

Private Protective Services Board Laws Amendments – Department of Public Safety Agency Changes.

SL 2025-51 (S710), Part II

Part II of S.L. 2025-51 (Senate Bill 710) makes the following changes to the Private Protective Services Board (Board):

- Clarifies the types of trainee permits available that can be issued by the Board.
- Provides that the private protective services profession can involve services provided to the government.
- Authorizes the Board to charge a fee up to \$100 for an application for approval of a continuing legal education course.
- Modifies G.S. 74C-11, which governs probationary employees and registration of regular employees, to regulate security guard and patrol companies and armored car companies.
- Expands the grounds for denial, suspension, or revocation of a license, registration, or permit.
- Modifies G.S. 74C-13, which governs firearm registration permits for private protective services, to apply generally to licensees.

This Part became effective October 1, 2025.

Enhance Background Check Abilities of Private Protective Services Board and Security Systems Licensing Board – Department of Public Safety Agency Changes.

SL 2025-51 (S710), Part III

Part III of S.L. 2025-51 (Senate Bill 710) does the following:

- Adds courses certified or sponsored by the North Carolina Private Protective Services Board and the Secretary of Public Safety to the list of approved courses for purposes of a concealed handgun permit application.
- Allows the Administrative Office of the Courts, upon request of the North Carolina Private Protective Services Board or the North Carolina Security Systems Licensing Board, to disclose information about expunction orders for licensure or registration purposes.
- Exempts the North Carolina Private Protective Services Board and the North Carolina Security Systems Licensing Board from the requirements of G.S. 93B-8.1, which governs how occupational licensing boards can consider an applicant's criminal history record.

This Part became effective October 1, 2025.

Certified Residential Real Estate Appraisers – Various Real Estate and Business Law Changes.

SL 2025-52 (S690), Sec. 1

Section 1 of S.L. 2025-52 (Senate Bill 690) establishes an alternative pathway to become a certified residential real estate appraiser by completing an approved Practical Applications of Real Estate Appraisal program and submitting 15 appraisals for review to the North Carolina Appraisal Board (Board). The Board is given authority to adopt rules to implement the alternative pathway to licensure.

The provision giving the Board authority to adopt rules became effective July 2, 2025. The remaining provisions become effective January 1, 2026.

Registration of Salesmen – Various Real Estate and Business Law Changes.

SL 2025-52 (S690), Sec. 2

Section 2 of S.L. 2025-52 (Senate Bill 690) and Part XII of S.L. 2025-45 (House Bill 737) are the same. Section 2 of this act allows a salesman registered under the North Carolina Securities Act to register with more than one dealer if each of the dealers that employs or associates with the salesman is under common ownership and control, or if the Administrator (Secretary of State) authorizes the registration by rule or order.

This section became effective October 1, 2025.

Neighbor State License Recognition Act.

SL 2025-61 (H763)

S.L. 2025-61 (House Bill 763) requires occupational licensing boards and State agency licensing boards to issue a license, certification, or registration to any applicant who establishes residency in North Carolina and satisfies all the following requirements:

- The applicant holds a current license – and has held that license for at least one year – in the same professional occupation at a substantially equivalent practice level from one of the following states: Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, or West Virginia.
- The applicant has passed any exam required for licensure in the jurisdiction in which they currently hold a license.
- The applicant demonstrates competency in the profession through methods determined by the board.
- The applicant is in good standing in all jurisdictions in the United States in which he or she has ever held licensure, and has not: (i) faced any active or pending disciplinary actions from an occupational licensing board, (ii) had their license revoked or voluntarily surrendered due to unprofessional conduct related to the professional occupation, nor (iii) developed a disqualifying criminal history record.
- The applicant has paid all fees.

This act applies to all occupational licensing boards and State agency licensing boards, except the following:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Any healthcare practitioner licensed under Chapter 90 of the General Statutes. | • Practitioners licensed by the North Carolina Pesticide Board. |
| • Architects. | • Practitioners licensed by the North Carolina Structural Pest Control Committee. |
| • Certified Public Accountants. | • Practitioners certified by the North Carolina On-Site Wastewater Contractors and Inspectors Certification Board. |
| • Engineers. | • New/used motor vehicle dealers, motor vehicle sales representatives, manufacturers, factory branches, factory representatives, distributors, distributor branches, distributor representatives, and wholesalers under Article 12 of Chapter 20 of the General Statutes. |
| • Veterinarians. | |
| • Attorneys. | |
| • Dealers, salesmen, issuers, investment advisors, investment advisor representatives, and athlete agents under Chapter 78A, 78C, and 78D of the General Statutes. | |

Each occupational licensing board and State agency licensing board must:

- Publish on its website a list of specific criteria or requirements for licensure by the board under this act, along with any necessary documentation applicants must submit.
- Report annually, beginning October 1, 2026, on the number of individuals who applied for, received, or were denied licensure under the neighbor state licensure recognition statute.

This act became effective October 1, 2025, and applies to applications for licensure, certification, or registration received on or after that date.

Perpetual Care of Certain Cemeteries.

SL 2025-68 (H210)

S.L. 2025-68 (House Bill 210) defines "care and maintenance" in the North Carolina Cemetery Act and directs the North Carolina Cemetery Commission (Commission) to adopt rules establishing minimum standards for care and maintenance of cemeteries. The rules must provide that if a licensee is in violation of the minimum standards for care and maintenance, the Commission can revoke or suspend the license or impose a civil penalty of \$50 per day, provided the Commission has given the licensee at least 10 days' written notice. This act also requires cemetery companies to produce annual reports with the details of the care and maintenance work performed.

This act became effective July 7, 2025.

End Dual Licensure Requirements for Audiologists – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 8

Section 8 of S.L. 2025-94 (House Bill 926) authorizes anyone holding an unrestricted license as an audiologist from the Board of Examiners for Speech and Language Pathologists and Audiologists to fit or sell hearing aids without having to obtain separate licensure from the State Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board.

This section became effective October 6, 2025.

Allow Buyer's Agent Compensation to be Included in the Offer to Purchase – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 10

Section 10 of S.L. 2025-94 (House Bill 926) directs the Real Estate Commission to implement its rule concerning offer and sales contracts to allow preprinted contracts to include provisions regarding the payment of a commission or compensation and to amend its rule consistent with that implementation.

This section became effective October 6, 2025.

Require Occupational Licensing Boards to Verify Applicants' Social Security Numbers – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 27

Section 27 of S.L. 2025-94 (House Bill 926) requires occupational licensing boards to verify the authenticity of an applicant's provided social security number and authorizes the boards to share the number with the Social Security Administration for that purpose.

This section became effective October 6, 2025.

Locked Hearing Aid Disclosures for Hearing Aid Fitters, Dealers, and Audiologists – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Secs. 9 & 9.1

Section 9 of S.L. 2025-94 (House Bill 926) establishes certain requirements applicable to licensed hearing aid specialists who sell locked hearing aids. This section requires licensed hearing aid specialists who sell locked hearing aids to provide purchasers with the following written notice in 12-point font type or larger, prior to the sale:

"The locked hearing aid being purchased uses locked, nonproprietary or proprietary locked programming software and can only be serviced or programmed at specific facilities or locations."

The purchaser must sign the written notice prior to completing any sale.

Upon selling a locked hearing aid, the seller must deliver to the purchaser a written receipt that provides, in addition to the information required by G.S. 93D-7, the following information: the date of sale; the make, model, and serial number of the hearing aid; whether the hearing aid is new, used, or reconditioned; the name and license number of each person who sold or provided any recommendation or consultation regarding the purchase; the address and office hours for the licensee's business; and the terms of any guarantee or written warranty made to the purchaser.

Section 9.1 of S.L. 2025-94 establishes requirements for licensed audiologists that are identical to those requirements in Section 9 which are applicable to hearing aid specialists.

These sections became effective October 1, 2025.