

---

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4001

---

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representative Sawyer

Prefiled 01/03/17.

1 TO THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES OF OREGON AND CALIFORNIA AND TO  
2 THE GOVERNORS OF THE STATES OF WASHINGTON, OREGON, AND CALIFORNIA:

3 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
4 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,  
5 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

6 WHEREAS, Current and future residents of Washington, Oregon, and  
7 California who work in occupations that require a credential like a  
8 license, certification, or registration issued by the state and who  
9 move to or from one of the three states face barriers to immediately  
10 practicing their occupation in their new home state, despite  
11 generally being qualified to do so; and

12 WHEREAS, The White House's July 2015 report, Occupational  
13 Licensing: A Framework for Policymakers, brings attention to the need  
14 for states to collaborate on making occupational credentials more  
15 easily portable between states and to, when appropriate, reweigh the  
16 costs and benefits of existing licensing laws to ensure that every  
17 requirement addresses legitimate public health and safety concerns;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, The 2015 White House report cites a study finding that  
20 in Washington over thirty percent of the workforce must hold a  
21 credential issued by the state in order to practice an occupation,  
22 that in Oregon over twenty-six percent of the workforce must hold  
23 such a credential, and that in California over twenty percent of the

1 workforce must hold such a credential; the study also found that in  
2 Washington workers who must hold a credential spend an average of one  
3 hundred ninety-nine days fulfilling the education and experience  
4 requirements to receive their credential, that in Oregon workers  
5 spend an average of five hundred sixty-eight days fulfilling such  
6 requirements, and that in California workers spend an average of five  
7 hundred forty-nine days fulfilling such requirements; and

8 WHEREAS, The issue of cross-state portability of credentials, and  
9 occupational licensure laws generally, directly affects numerous  
10 people in Washington, Oregon, and California, and ensuring greater  
11 portability of occupational credentials between states requires a  
12 coordinated, strategic effort by the three states; and

13 WHEREAS, Although each of the three states currently authorizes  
14 some level of reciprocity for certain occupations, not all  
15 occupations allow for reciprocity to the same extent, if at all, and  
16 barriers to labor market entry and mobility imposed by each state may  
17 nevertheless remain that, upon closer scrutiny and with reference to  
18 how other states regulate or do not regulate the occupation, cannot  
19 fairly be said to be necessary to address legitimate public health  
20 and safety concerns; and

21 WHEREAS, The states of Washington, Oregon, and California,  
22 through their respective legislatures and governors, should begin  
23 discussions on coordinating legislation, regulations, and efforts to  
24 enable greater portability of occupational credentials between the  
25 three states with the goal that, generally, all workers should be  
26 able to begin work immediately in their new home state if the worker  
27 holds a credential issued by one of the three states, was practicing  
28 the occupation in that state, and then moves to one of the other  
29 three states and wants to immediately begin practicing the  
30 occupation; in some instances, this may require each state to reweigh  
31 the costs and benefits of occupational licensing requirements and  
32 eliminate any requirements that are not necessary to address  
33 legitimate public health and safety concerns to more closely align  
34 the laws and regulations of the three states with respect to each  
35 occupation that one of the states requires a credential to practice;  
36 and

37 WHEREAS, Federal grant money may be available for nonprofit  
38 organizations working with a group of states to accomplish this goal  
39 and Washington is interested in working with nonprofit organizations  
40 and other states to do so, especially along the West coast;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that:

2 (1) The leadership of the major political parties in the Oregon  
3 and California legislatures contact the leadership of the major  
4 political parties of the Washington legislature to begin discussions  
5 on coordinating legislation to increase the portability of  
6 occupational credentials between the three states, or to otherwise  
7 coordinate efforts to align the three states' laws and eliminate  
8 barriers to labor market entry and mobility that, upon reexamination,  
9 are not necessary to address legitimate public health and safety  
10 concerns; and

11 (2) The governors of Washington, Oregon, and California contact  
12 each other's offices to begin discussions on coordinating legislation  
13 and regulations to increase the portability of occupational  
14 credentials between the three states, or to otherwise coordinate  
15 efforts to align the three states' laws and regulations and eliminate  
16 barriers to labor market entry and mobility that, upon reexamination,  
17 are not necessary to address legitimate public health and safety  
18 concerns.

19 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
20 transmitted to the Governors of Washington, Oregon, and California,  
21 the President of the Oregon Senate, the Speaker of the Oregon House  
22 of Representatives, the leaders of the two major political parties of  
23 the Oregon Senate and Oregon House of Representatives, the President  
24 of the California Senate, the Speaker of the California State  
25 Assembly, and the leaders of the two major political parties of the  
26 California Senate and the California State Assembly.

--- END ---