



# Occupational Licensing Reform FAQ

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## Q: What is the goal of this workgroup?

**A:** The goal of this workgroup is to remove unnecessary barriers to employment while preserving the health and safety of North Dakotans and promoting competition. To accomplish this, the workgroup will study North Dakota's schema for occupational licensing in order to develop a thorough understanding of licensing in our state; discover best practices; engage licensing boards and commissions; and identify the best path for reform.

## Q: Who is in the occupational licensing reform workgroup?

**A:** This workgroup is a subcommittee of the Workforce Development Council and is made up of legislators and a cross-functional group of representatives of those affected by North Dakota's occupational licensing framework.

## Q: What are other states doing?

**A:** Occupational licensing reform looks different in every state. It is important to keep in mind that each state has unique needs and starts in a different place. Some examples are:

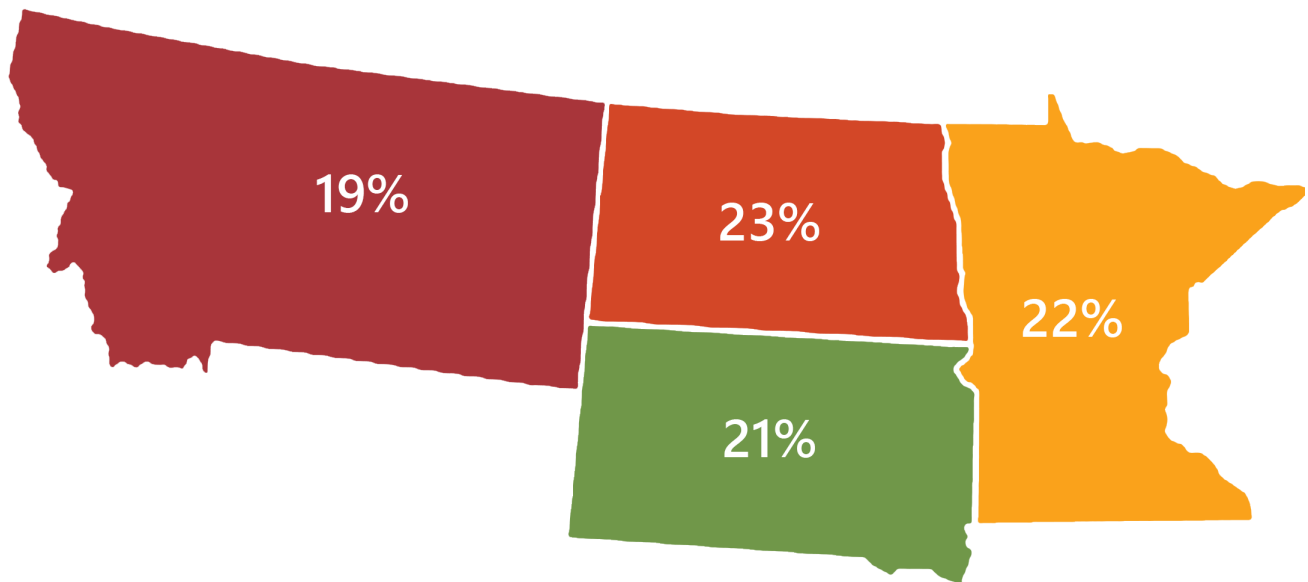
- Fee waivers (Nebraska LB 112; Oklahoma SB 670)
- Teacher licensure (2018 New Mexico SB 97)
- Expedited licensure (Kentucky HB 18-319)
- Overall process improvements and education/experience cross walking (Nevada AB 25)
- Exemption of military spouse licensure requirements under certain circumstances (Arizona HB 2569; South Dakota HB 1111)

## Q: How does North Dakota compare?

A: North Dakota has 61 licensing boards

- Approximately 25% of the national workforce requires an occupational license to practice; 23% of North Dakota's workforce requires a license
  - North Dakota is ranked 6th in the nation based on the percentage of workforce that is licensed
  - Nationally, a total of 102 lower-income occupations may require a license
    - North Dakota requires licenses for 65 of these occupations
    - The national average is 54

## Regionally, North Dakota has a higher percentage of workforce that requires a license than our neighboring states



- Nationally, there were 1,229 pieces of legislation on occupational licensing in 2019; 449 pieces of legislation were enacted, including SB 2306 in ND
  - Texas enacted 36 pieces of legislation; Arkansas enacted 35



## Q: How can others get involved?

A: All licensing boards, commissions and agencies will be invited to public comment hearings in Q3:2020; the date and location are to be determined

## Q: What is the timeline?

