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AN ACT

RELATING TO LICENSURE; PROVIDING FOR THE TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF THE COLLECTION OF FEES FOR FIRST-TIME LICENSES FOR CERTAIN PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS; REQUIRING DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS TO DETERMINE THE EFFICACY OF THE SUSPENSION PROGRAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. TEMPORARY PROVISION--TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING FIRST-TIME PROVISIONAL AND INITIAL LICENSE FEES FOR PERSONS ENTERING PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS IN NEW MEXICO--RENEWAL AND REINSTATEMENT AND OTHER FEES COLLECTED BY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS CONTINUE.--

A. As used in this section, "first-time license" includes provisional and initial licensure, certification, registration, permitting or other word that indicates that a person has been qualified to engage in a profession or occupation regulated by the state.

B. The state shall suspend the collection of license fees for first-time licensure of persons in the professions and occupations listed in this section who reside in the state of New Mexico; provided that this provision does not include businesses or managers or supervisors of businesses. This program of suspension shall begin July 1, 2023 and end June 30, 2026. The regulation and licensing department, adjunct licensing boards and other departments

1 that license professions and occupations listed in this
2 section shall collect and analyze data to determine whether
3 the suspension of first-time license fees results in
4 increased participation in licensed professions and
5 occupations and whether additional licensees are drawn from
6 resident New Mexicans or other jurisdictions.

7 C. Persons who are not required to pay the first-
8 time license fee for licensure in a profession or occupation
9 listed in this section shall meet all other requirements for
10 licensure, including education, training, experience and
11 examination, and pay all other fees as required by the laws
12 and rules governing the particular profession or occupation.

13 D. The boards, commissions and departments
14 regulating the following professions and occupations shall
15 not collect first-time licensing fees in:

16 (1) the School Personnel Act, Chapter 22,
17 Article 10A NMSA 1978, licensing or certifying teachers,
18 school administrators and instructional support staff;

19 (2) Subsection V of Section 24-1-3 NMSA 1978
20 and rules adopted pursuant to that subsection, licensing
21 midwives;

22 (3) the Emergency Medical Services Act,
23 Chapter 24, Article 10B NMSA 1978, and rules adopted pursuant
24 to that act, licensing emergency medical dispatchers and
25 emergency medical dispatcher instructors; emergency medical

1 services first responders; and basic, intermediate and
2 paramedic emergency medical technicians;

3 (4) the Optometry Act, Chapter 61, Article 2
4 NMSA 1978, licensing optometrists;

5 (5) the Nursing Practice Act, Chapter 61,
6 Article 3 NMSA 1978, licensing registered nurses, licensed
7 practical nurses, nursing specialists and lactation
8 consultants;

9 (6) the Chiropractic Physician Practice Act,
10 Chapter 61, Article 4 NMSA 1978, licensing chiropractic
11 physicians and chiropractic assistants;

12 (7) the Dental Health Care Act, Chapter 61,
13 Article 5A NMSA 1978, licensing dentists, dental hygienists,
14 dental therapists, dental assistants, expanded-function
15 dental auxiliaries and community dental health coordinators;

16 (8) the Medical Practice Act, Chapter 61,
17 Articles 6, 6A, 6B, 6C, 6D, 12F and 12G NMSA 1978, licensing
18 medical or osteopathic physicians, physician assistants,
19 polysomnographic technologists, anesthesiologist assistants,
20 naturopathic doctors, naprapaths and genetic counselors;

21 (9) the Nutrition and Dietetics Practice
22 Act, Chapter 61, Article 7A NMSA 1978, licensing dieticians,
23 nutritionists and nutrition associates;

24 (10) the Podiatry Act, Chapter 61, Article 8
25 NMSA 1978, licensing podiatrists and foot and ankle radiation

1 technologists;

2 (11) the Professional Psychologist Act,
3 Chapter 61, Article 9 NMSA 1978, licensing psychologists and
4 psychologist associates;

5 (12) the Counseling and Therapy Practice
6 Act, Chapter 61, Article 9A NMSA 1978, licensing professional
7 mental health counselors, professional clinical mental health
8 counselors, independent mental health counselors, mental
9 health counselors, marriage and family therapists, associate
10 marriage and family therapists, professional art therapists,
11 alcohol and drug abuse counselors, alcohol abuse counselors
12 and substance abuse associates;

13 (13) the Pharmacy Act, Chapter 61, Article
14 11 NMSA 1978, licensing pharmacists, pharmacist interns and
15 pharmacy technicians;

16 (14) the Occupational Therapy Act, Chapter
17 61, Article 12A NMSA 1978, licensing occupational therapists
18 and occupational therapy assistants;

19 (15) the Respiratory Care Act, Chapter 61,
20 Article 12B NMSA 1978, licensing respiratory care
21 practitioners;

22 (16) the Massage Therapy Practice Act,
23 Chapter 61, Article 12C NMSA 1978, licensing massage
24 therapists;

25 (17) the Physical Therapy Act, Chapter 61,

1 Article 12D NMSA 1978, licensing physical therapists and
2 physical therapist assistants;

3 (18) the Nursing Home Administrators Act,
4 Chapter 61, Article 13 NMSA 1978, licensing nursing home
5 administrators;

6 (19) the Veterinary Practice Act, Chapter
7 61, Article 14 NMSA 1978, licensing veterinarians and
8 veterinary technicians;

9 (20) the Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
10 Practice Act, Chapter 61, Article 14A NMSA 1978, licensing
11 acupuncturists and doctors of oriental medicine;

12 (21) the Speech-Language Pathology,
13 Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Practices Act, Chapter
14 61, Article 14B NMSA 1978, licensing audiologists, hearing
15 aid dispensers and speech-language pathologists;

16 (22) the Athletic Trainer Practice Act,
17 Chapter 61, Article 14D NMSA 1978, licensing athletic
18 trainers;

19 (23) the Medical Imaging and Radiation
20 Therapy Health and Safety Act, Chapter 61, Article 14E NMSA
21 1978, licensing magnetic resonance technologists,
22 radiographers, nuclear medicine technologists, diagnostic
23 medical sonographers and radiation therapists;

24 (24) the Real Estate Appraisers Act, Chapter
25 61, Article 30 NMSA 1978, licensing real estate appraisers

1 and real estate appraiser trainees;

2 (25) the Social Work Practice Act, Chapter
3 61, Article 31 NMSA 1978, licensing bachelors of social work,
4 clinical social workers, independent social workers and
5 masters of social work;

6 (26) the Funeral Services Act, Chapter 61,
7 Article 32 NMSA 1978, licensing direct disposers, embalmers,
8 funeral arrangers, funeral service interns and funeral
9 service practitioners; and

10 (27) the Utility Operators Certification
11 Act, Chapter 61, Article 33 NMSA 1978, licensing utility
12 operators of one or more classifications of public water
13 supply systems.

14 SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
15 provisions of this act is July 1, 2023. _____

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