

HOUSE BILL 1805

By Howell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, Chapter 6, Part 3; Title 23, Chapter 3; Title 49; Title 56; Title 62; Title 63 and Title 68, relative to the waiver of initial licensure fees.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 62, Chapter 76, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Licensing" means the procedure through which the privilege to engage in a specific profession regulated under this title is granted by a licensing authority;

(2) "Licensing authority" means any state agency with the authority to impose training, education, or licensure fees to practice in a profession;

(3) "Licensure fee" means a fee imposed by a licensing authority on persons licensed to practice a profession for the privilege of providing goods or services;

(4) "Low-income persons" means persons who are enrolled in a state or federal public assistance program, including, but not limited to, temporary assistance for needy families (TANF), Medicaid, or supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP); or whose household adjusted gross income is below one hundred thirty percent (130%) of the federal poverty line, or a higher threshold to be set by the department of commerce and insurance;

(5) "Military families" means active duty service members, honorably discharged veterans, spouses of active duty service members or honorably

discharged veterans, and deceased service members' surviving spouses who have not remarried;

(6) "State agency" means a state board, agency or commission attached to the division of regulatory boards, as listed in § 4-3-1304(a); and

(7) "Young workers" means applicants for licensure who are between eighteen (18) and twenty-five (25) years of age.

(b)

(1) Any licensing authority that requires a license for persons to practice in a profession shall waive all initial licensure fees for:

(A) Low-income persons;

(B) Military families; and

(C) Young workers.

(2)

(A) Persons seeking a waiver of initial licensure fee requirements shall apply to the appropriate licensing authority in a format prescribed by the authority.

(B) The licensing authority shall process the application within thirty (30) days of its receipt from the applicant.

(3) All licensing authorities to which this section applies shall promulgate rules to effectuate the purposes of this section.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapter 3, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Licensing" means the procedure through which the privilege to engage in a specific profession regulated under this title is granted by a licensing authority;

(2) "Licensing authority" means any state agency with the authority to impose training, education, or licensure fees to practice in a profession;

(3) "Licensure fee" means a fee imposed by a licensing authority on persons licensed to practice a profession for the privilege of providing goods or services;

(4) "Low-income persons" means persons who are enrolled in a state or federal public assistance program, including, but not limited to, temporary assistance for needy families (TANF), Medicaid, or supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP); or whose household adjusted gross income is below one hundred thirty percent (130%) of the federal poverty line, or a higher threshold to be set by the department of commerce and insurance;

(5) "Military families" means active duty service members, honorably discharged veterans, spouses of active duty service members or honorably discharged veterans, and deceased service members' surviving spouses who have not remarried;

(6) "State agency" means a state board, agency, or commission attached to the division of health related boards, as listed in § 68-1-101(a)(8); and

(7) "Young workers" means applicants for licensure who are between eighteen (18) and twenty-five (25) years of age.

(b)

(1) Any licensing authority that requires a license for persons to practice in a profession shall waive all initial licensure fees for:

(A) Low-income persons;

(B) Military families; and

(C) Young workers.

(2)

(A) Persons seeking a waiver of initial licensure fee requirements shall apply to the appropriate licensing authority in a format prescribed by the authority.

(B) The licensing authority shall process the application within thirty (30) days of its receipt from the applicant.

(3) All licensing authorities to which this section applies shall promulgate rules to effectuate the purposes of this section.

SECTION 3. For the purpose of promulgating rules, this act shall take effect July 1, 2018, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect January 1, 2019, the public welfare requiring it.