



From Blumenfeld and Associates:

The State Senate met for their final regular session floor period of the 2017-18 legislative session on Tuesday. After some deal-making during the day, the Assembly and Senate agreed to meet in extraordinary session on Thursday to take up modified versions of the child tax credit, juvenile corrections and school safety bills that address issues raised by the Senate.

None of the licensure reform bills that we are concerned about made it into the extraordinary session schedule, but we will monitor the extraordinary session tomorrow. One of the bills on the schedule would make it easier for ex-offenders to obtain occupational licenses if they have been rehabilitated and another possible bill would update licensure law for sign language interpreters.

The Senate did take up a few bills of interest yesterday, which can now become law.

Fee Waivers for Licenses: The Senate voted 32-0 to pass Assembly Bill 733, which creates a license fee reduction, so that veterans and individuals with income below 180% of the federal poverty line are only required to pay 10% of the standard credentialing fee for an initial credential granted by DSPS or a licensing board. DSPS is allowed to share a person's Social Security number, and to inspect a person's tax return, for the purpose of administering the fee reduction. This bill can now be signed into law.

Employment Discrimination Based on Arrest or Conviction: The Senate passed Assembly Bill 829 on a voice vote, which updates the fair employment law with respect to the ability of state and local governmental agencies to deny a license to an individual based on an arrest or conviction record. The bill states that it is employment discrimination to deny or revoke an occupational license because the individual is subject to a pending criminal charge or based on charges against them when they were a juvenile, unless the circumstances of the charge substantially relate to the circumstances of the particular licensed activity or the charge is for a violent crime or a crime involving a child. If a licensing agency denies an individual a license based on a criminal charge, they must provide the individual with a notice in writing and give them the chance to show proof of rehabilitation. If the individual shows evidence of sufficient rehabilitation and fitness to perform the licensed activity the licensing agency may not refuse to license the individual or bar or terminate the individual from licensing based on that conviction. The bill also allows an individual with a criminal record to submit an application to a licensing agency at any time for a determination of whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify

the individual from obtaining a license. This bill can now be signed into law.

DSPS Disciplinary Actions: The Senate voted on a voice vote to approve Assembly Bill 902, which allows DSPS and its attached boards and credentialing boards to issue an administrative warning whether or not it is a first occurrence for the license holder. The bill also allows DSPS and its attached boards and credentialing boards to summarily limit a credential prior to revocation proceedings if they find it imperative for the public's health, safety, or welfare. This bill can now be signed into law.

Definition of Professional Credential or License: The Senate voted on a voice vote to pass Assembly Bill 905, which creates a consistent definition of credential/occupational license in state statute and requires consistent standards for discipline and filings for credential holders. This bill can now be signed into law.

Blumenfeld and Associates, LLC
16 North Carroll Street
Suite 800
Madison, WI 53703
(608)257-1888