
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 88 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY POLINCHOCK, HENNESSEY, HICKERNELL, JAMES, MASSER,
MILLARD, ROTHMAN, ROWE, SAYLOR AND THOMAS, APRIL 8, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, APRIL 8, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a
2 comprehensive study of the regulatory waivers and suspensions
3 issued by the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs
4 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

5 WHEREAS, The Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs
6 within the Department of State is charged with oversight of 29
7 licensing boards and commissions and the facilitation of roughly
8 130 individual licenses and 39 facility licenses; and

9 WHEREAS, Professionals licensed under the Bureau of
10 Professional and Occupational Affairs range from health-related
11 professionals, including physicians and nurses, to business-
12 related professionals, including cosmetologists and realtors;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Each licensing board and commission under the Bureau
15 of Professional and Occupational Affairs has its own practice
16 act and regulations; and

17 WHEREAS, Currently, 25% of employees in the United States
18 need professional licenses to work in their occupations; and

19 WHEREAS, As a result, states have taken an active role in

1 developing effective regulatory policies that protect consumers,
2 but also promote economic growth and employment opportunities;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Since March 2020, there have been nearly 100
5 regulatory waivers and suspensions issued by the Bureau of
6 Professional and Occupational Affairs to temporarily remove
7 barriers to work and practice in this Commonwealth during the
8 COVID-19 pandemic; and

9 WHEREAS, The Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs
10 continues to issue new regulatory waivers and suspensions and
11 update existing waivers; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint
13 State Government Commission to conduct a comprehensive study of
14 the regulatory waivers and suspensions issued by the Bureau of
15 Professional and Occupational Affairs during the COVID-19
16 pandemic; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission
18 specifically study, at a minimum, the regulatory waivers and
19 suspensions issued by the Bureau of Professional and
20 Occupational Affairs during the COVID-19 pandemic pertaining to
21 license renewal extensions, continuing education requirements
22 and distance education, temporary licensure and reactivation of
23 licenses for retired professionals; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission's
25 findings in the report include all of the following:

26 (1) A description of a list of the regulatory waivers
27 and suspensions issued by the Bureau of Professional and
28 Occupational Affairs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

29 (2) The impact of each regulatory waiver and suspension
30 on practice and employment in this Commonwealth.

1 (3) Recommendations on which, if any, regulatory waivers
2 and suspensions should permanently remain in place or what
3 other permanent statutory or regulatory changes should be
4 pursued in an effort to reduce barriers to practice and
5 employment in the Commonwealth;

6 and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission solicit
8 input from organizations of licensed professionals in this
9 Commonwealth and representatives from the Bureau of Professional
10 and Occupational Affairs to assist the Joint State Government
11 Commission with its findings and recommendations in the report;
12 and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a
14 report of its findings and recommendations to the chair and
15 minority chair of the Professional Licensure Committee of the
16 House of Representatives no later than six months after the
17 adoption of this resolution.