

SB 855 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and General Government

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Meeting Dates: 3/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs professional licensing boards that regulate an occupational or professional service to develop pathways to licensure, certification, or other authorization for persons who are noncitizens. Requires these licensing boards to report by November 30, 2019, to Legislative Assembly on progress in meeting these requirements. Becomes operative July 1, 2020. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Current regulations require construction contractors, landscape contractors, athletic trainers, cosmetologists, nurse assistants and many others to obtain an occupational license in order to engage in that profession. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, occupational licensing is a barrier to nearly 2 million skilled immigrants who are underemployed or working in low-skilled jobs instead of their field, resulting in \$40 billion in foregone wages annually and \$10 billion in lost federal, state, and local tax payments.

Senate Bill 855 requires state entities that administer and enforce occupational licensing to develop pathways to professional authorization for noncitizens, and report to the Legislative Assembly on their progress by November 30, 2019.