



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 954

HOUSE BILL NO. 1805

By Representatives Howell, Daniel, Terry, Faison, Rogers, Akbari, Camper, Parkinson

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 2474

By Senator Roberts

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); and

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

(b)

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

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

(3) All licensing authorities to which this section applies shall promulgate rules to effectuate the purposes of this section. The rules shall be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapter 1, 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); and

(5) "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).

(b)

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

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

(3) All licensing authorities to which this section applies shall promulgate rules to effectuate the purposes of this section. The rules shall be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 140, Part 3, 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 profession regulated under this part is granted by the board;

(2) "Licensure fee" means a fee imposed by the board on persons licensed to practice a profession for the privilege of services; and

(3) "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).

(b)

(1) When a license is required for persons to practice in a profession under this part, the board shall waive all initial licensure fees for low-income persons.

(2)

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

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

(3) The board shall promulgate rules to effectuate the purposes of this section.

SECTION 4. For purposes of promulgating rules, this act shall take effect upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect January 1, 2019, the public welfare requiring it.

HOUSE BILL NO. 1805

PASSED: April 23, 2018



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 15th day of May 2018



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR