

**Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure  
2025-2026 (194<sup>th</sup>) Bill Summary**

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**BILL NUMBER:** H420

**TITLE:** An Act relative to increasing professional licensure opportunities

**SPONSOR(S):** Rep. LeBoeuf and Rep. Ultrino

**HEARING DATE:** April 29, 2025

**REPORTING DEADLINE:** June 28, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY**

(2023-2024): H4602 - Bill reported favorably by Committee (redraft of H348); and referred to the committee on House Ways and Means.

**CURRENT LAW**

Section 172 of Chapter 6 of the General Laws governs the maintenance of criminal record information and the use and dissemination of that information.

Section 172N of said chapter requires licensing authorities list within the requirements for a professional license any specific criminal convictions directly related that may disqualify an applicant.

## **SUMMARY**

This legislation seeks to prohibit licensing authorities and employers from barring an individual from a professional or occupational license, or employment because of a criminal record; and must look at individual circumstances for each applicant or licensee. This legislation also seeks to bar such authorities from considering the following: deferred adjudications, convictions with no sentence of incarceration, and sealed, annulled, expunged, or pardoned convictions. This would also bar such authorities from considering convictions that occurred more than 3 years prior to the consideration, except in the case of violent crimes, sex offenses, and fraud offenses. If the applicant's criminal history is related to the profession, the licensing authority shall consider evidence of rehabilitation in a light most favorable to the applicant. This legislation also establishes an 11-member commission to provide recommendations for background record requirements for each professional and occupational license granted within the Commonwealth.

Further, "good moral character" requirements throughout the General Laws would be struck, and replaced with language pertaining to criminal background review impacting the following licensed occupations: naturopathic doctors, community health workers, genetic counselors, perfusionists, dietitians/nutritionists, hearing instrument specialists, allied mental health and human service professionals, acupuncturists, speech-language pathologists and audiologists, physicians, podiatrists, nurses, practical nurses, Canadian nurse reciprocity, chiropractors, respiratory care, allied health professionals, psychologists, dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, optometrists and opticians, social workers, massage therapists, home inspectors, landscape architects, real estate brokers and salesmen, public accountants, embalmers and funeral directors, veterinarians, and architects.