



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE Joint Fiscal Office

1 Baldwin Street • Montpelier, VT 05633-5701 • (802) 828-2295 • <https://ljfo.vermont.gov>

Fiscal Note

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Ted Barnett, Senior Fiscal Analyst; Chris Rupe, Associate Fiscal Officer

H.472 (Act 58) – An act relating to professions and occupations regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation

As Enacted^{1,i}

Bill Summary

This bill amends various provisions governing professions and occupations regulated by the Secretary of State's Office of Professional Regulation (OPR), including:

- Changing the scope and amounts of various professional licensure fees and adding various new fee types;
- Requiring cosmetologists to be trained in the care of textured hair;
- Requiring licensed nursing assistants to take a competency exam after their license has lapsed for a period of not more than five years;
- Removing motor vehicle racing from the regulatory authority of OPR;
- Creating a position of Executive Officer for the Regulation of Mental Health Professions, funded with a \$170,000 General Fund appropriation; and
- Requiring OPR to submit proposed legislation for the regulation of massage therapy establishments.

Fiscal Impact

- The miscellaneous fee and regulation changes in Sections 2 and 9 are expected to increase revenue to the Professional Regulation Fund by approximately \$220,000 annually.
- Section 12 appropriates \$170,000 from the General Fund to OPR in fiscal year 2026 to fund a permanent, full-time classified Executive Officer for the Regulation of Mental Health Professions. The cost of this position is expected to shift to the Professional Regulation Fund in future budget cycles.

Background and Details

According to data from OPR, various fee and regulation changes effective July 1, 2025 would increase revenue for the Professional Regulation Fund by approximately \$220,000 annually. These changes include:

- Increasing verification of license fees from \$20 to \$30. These fees are typically paid when licensees

¹ The Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) is a nonpartisan legislative office dedicated to producing unbiased fiscal analysis – this fiscal note is meant to provide information for legislative consideration, not to provide policy recommendations.

seek licensure in other states or are providing verification to employers.

- Reinstating the \$200 electrology shop fee in statute. This fee previously existed in Title 26 but was inadvertently removed in a prior bill.
- Creating three fees:
 - \$50 apprenticeship application fee;
 - \$100 specialty or endorsement to existing license application fee; and
 - \$250 disciplinary action surcharge.
- Ending OPR regulation of motor vehicle racing, which would also end the collection of related event permit fees.

The fee increase for peer support providers or peer recovery support specialists (from \$50 to \$75) is estimated to provide a minimal increase in fee revenues for OPR starting in fiscal year 2028.

In addition to these estimated impacts, there are certain changes that the Joint Fiscal Office (JFO) does not or is not able to estimate. JFO does not typically estimate revenue from changes to fines or penalties, such as the increased penalty for unauthorized practice (from \$2,500 to \$5,000) in Section 5 or the \$250 disciplinary action surcharge in Section 6. In addition, language in Section 1 authorizing the Secretary of State to collect fees for optional services, such as data subscriptions, would generate additional revenue for the Secretary of State Services Fund that cannot be forecasted, as those fees would be determined on a case-by-case basis depending on the scope of the services provided.

The table below summarizes the fiscal impact of these changes in fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

| | Fee Renewal Period | Current Fee | Proposed Fee | Number of Units | Fiscal Year 2026 Change in Revenue | Fiscal Year 2027 Change in Revenue |
|---|--------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Verification of License | - | \$20 | \$30 | 2,000 | \$20,000 | \$20,000 |
| Electrology Shop | Biennial | - | \$200 | 15 | - | \$3,000 |
| Apprenticeship Application | Annual | - | \$150 | 50 | \$7,500 | \$7,500 |
| Specialty Endorsement to Existing License Application | Annual | - | 100 | 2,000 | \$200,000 | \$200,000 |
| Motor Vehicle Racing | Annual; Biennial | Various | - | - | (\$2,000) | (\$14,000) |
| Total Revenue Changes | | | | | \$225,500 | \$216,500 |

Appropriations and Positions

Section 12 appropriates \$170,000 from the General Fund to OPR in fiscal year 2026 to fund a newly created permanent, full-time classified Executive Officer for the Regulation of Mental Health Professions position. OPR has indicated that it expects the cost of this position can be funded by the Professional Regulation Fund in future budget cycles.²

ⁱ The full fiscal note history is available on the fiscal tab of the bill page on the General Assembly website and can be pulled up through a bill number search on the JFO page.

² Memo to Senate Committee on Government Operations from OPR, April 9, 2025:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2026/Workgroups/Senate%20Government%20Operations/Bills/H.472/Witness%20Documents/H.472~Lauren%20Hibbert~Written%20Testimony~4-9-2025.pdf>