



VERMONT LEGISLATIVE
Joint Fiscal Office

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Fiscal Note

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H.588 – An act relating to professions and occupations regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation

As recommended by the House Committee on Ways and Means, Draft 1.2 ¹ⁱ

Bill Summary

This bill would make various changes to the Office of Professional Regulation (OPR), including:

- explicitly enables OPR to rescind licenses;
- creates a limited academic dentist license with a fee of \$0;
- dissolves the advisory committee on midwifery, which reports to the Director of OPR and the Commissioner of Health;
- modifies the definition of practice of funeral services to include cremation and other practices;
- regulates massage or bodywork establishments and requires those establishments to pay fees for registration and renewal of their license; and
- changes education, licensure, and general requirements for various professions, including accountants, midwives, massage therapists, psychologists, and pharmacists.

Fiscal Impact

This bill will increase revenues to the Professional Regulatory Fee Fund at OPR by requiring massage and bodywork establishments to pay the standard fees in 3 V.S.A. § 125(b) of \$100 at registration and \$275 biennially to renew their license. Solitary practitioners would be exempt from this requirement and establishments with two professionals would pay registration fees of \$50 and renewal fees of \$75. **Data from OPR indicates that these fees could result in up to approximately \$15,000 in revenue in fiscal year 2027 and up to \$40,000 in fiscal year 2029 and odd fiscal years thereafter when licenses renew.** Even-numbered fiscal years would see minimal revenue increases from this provision when new establishments apply for licenses and renew off schedule.

The remaining provisions of the bill have a minimal fiscal impact. OPR estimates that six dentists would take advantage of the new \$0 limited academic license. The current fee for dentists in Vermont is \$655. However, some of these dentists could be currently licensed out-of-state, and not pay fees in Vermont.

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.*

The sunrise assessment for speech-language pathologist assistants would use resources available through the already regulated speech language pathologist profession.

The bill would dissolve an advisory committee on midwifery, members of which are currently entitled to compensation under 32 V.S.A. § 1010. This change would slightly reduce expenses in the Professional Regulatory Fee Fund.

¹ 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.