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## **SEN. JACQUE'S LANDMARK "LICENSING RECIPROCITY FOR WORKFORCE GROWTH ACT" CLEARS SENATE**

*Measure helps streamline professional licensing to fill gaps in Wisconsin's workforce*

MADISON... To address increasingly acute shortages of licensed professionals in a number of critical fields, and the resulting stresses on the remaining professionals in their fields and public at large, the State Senate today passed legislation with bi-partisan support establishing reciprocal licensing in Wisconsin to attract skilled workers who are already credentialed in another state.

State Sen. André Jacque (R-De Pere), author of the bill and Chairman of the Senate Committee on Licensing, Constitution and Federalism, said the measure is critically important to help fill gaps in Wisconsin's workforce by eliminating excessive barriers to workforce entry and workers moving to Wisconsin.

By expanding license reciprocity, SB 135 will eliminate governmental barriers to employment and allow citizens to become licensed faster when moving to, or back to, or needing to find work in Wisconsin," said Sen. Jacque. "This will not only help fill critical jobs in our economy but also highlight Wisconsin as an ideal state to live and work."

Sen. Jacque said that under the Licensing Reciprocity for Workforce Growth Act, licensing boards will recognize out-of-state occupational licenses for people who:

- Have been licensed in their profession for at least one year
- Are in good standing in all states where they are licensed
- Do not have any past or pending investigations, complaints, relevant convictions or license revocations or restrictions
- Pay applicable fees
- Meet all testing and background check requirements per law

Sen. Jacque said it is important to note that this legislation does not automatically recognize other states' occupational licenses; workers licensed in other states will still need to apply for a license through the appropriate Wisconsin State licensing board.

"Recognizing credentialed professionals in other states is not meant to replace current pathways to licensure, but represents an important new pathway that expands the options available to those looking to join our workforce with the skill and desire to practice in Wisconsin that are effectively blocked here currently but welcomed in numerous other states," Sen. Jacque said. "With the passage of this reform, Wisconsin's capacity to fill critical existing or impending vacancies in our workforce will be proactively and dramatically strengthened."

Sen. Jacque said the Reciprocal Credentials for Workforce Growth Act is similar to a measures successfully implemented in Arizona, and signed into law in Wisconsin for active duty military spouses and veterans and their spouses (2019 Wisconsin Act 143).

The measure ([Senate Bill 135](#)) now moves to the State Assembly and must be signed by the Governor to become law.