

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS: Workforce Licensing Recognition Breaking Down Barriers to Work

THE PROBLEMS

- Nebraska is faced with a workforce shortage.
- In Nebraska, nearly 1 in 4 jobs require some sort of government permit or license.
- Approximately 200 occupations in Nebraska require some form of state licensure.
- Many of Nebraska's initial job licensing requirements are burdensome compared to other states.
- Workers and family whose jobs require state licensing look at difficulty of meeting licensing requirements.

OVERVIEW

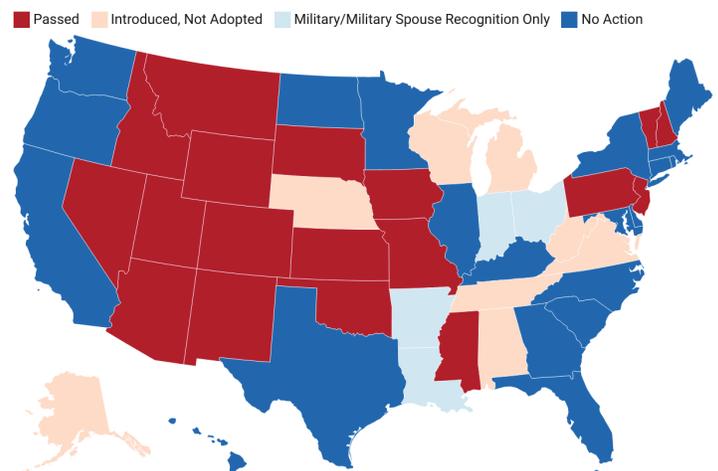
- Many states moved to waive licensing requirements for out-of-state healthcare workers at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing healthcare professionals to move easily across state lines.
- If recognition of other-state licensure was safe in fields directly impacting public health and safety, we should broaden its scope to include other occupations for workforce development.
- Nineteen states have passed some form of broad universal recognition; at least seven had introduced broad legislation in the 2021-22 legislative sessions; a few have broadly recognized occupations of veterans and military spouses.

THE SOLUTION

Recognition of Workforce Experience

- Recognizes workers don't lose their skills because they cross state lines.
- Licensing boards accept licenses from other states with similar scopes of practice.
- Focus on experience, rather than widely diverse initial licensing requirements across the country.
- Provides full recognition of virtually all occupations—including for military spouses and family.
- Recognizes military occupational specialty (MOS) for those who have trained in civilian-licensed occupations during their service.

LICENSE RECOGNITION TO DATE



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COMPETITIVENESS:

Regulatory Sandboxes

Facilitate the Future of Innovation for Nebraska

A regulatory sandbox creates an environment where entrepreneurs and regulators can work hand-in-hand to apply reasonable regulations to companies that don't fit the norm.

REGULATORY SANDBOXES HAVE APPLICATIONS FOR:

- Financial Technology
- Insurance
- Healthcare
- Agriculture
- Manufacturing

STATUS OF SANDBOX STATES

- States with some sort of sandbox established
- States currently considering a sandbox



A SPACE FOR INNOVATION

Under regulatory supervision, firms can safely stretch the bounds of human ingenuity, testing new business models current regulations may inhibit.



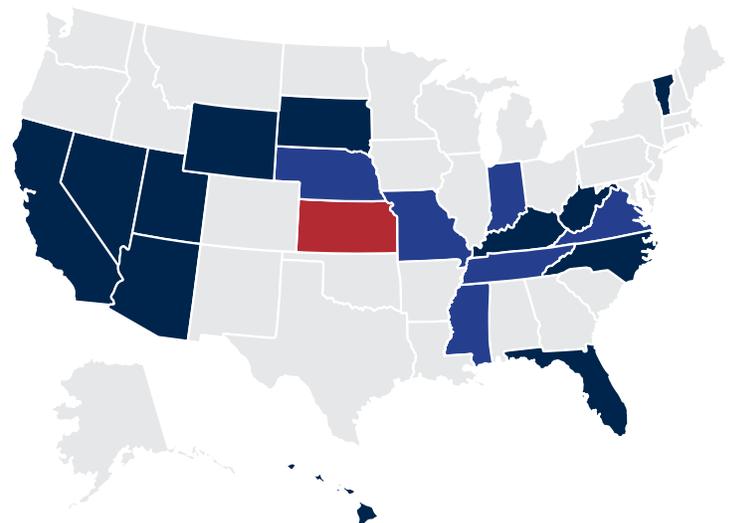
A HISTORY OF SUCCESS

Regulatory sandboxes have been launched in 12 U.S. states and numerous countries, helping identify outdated regulations and new technology trends.



WELCOMING VISIONARIES

States like Arizona, Utah, and North Carolina are welcoming more firms, entrepreneurs, and investment by offering regulatory sandboxes.



Make Nebraska a Better Place for Taxpayers

BACKGROUND

Studies have consistently found state tax policy is important for fostering economic growth. Two changes in the last five years have enhanced this importance and helped to launch a new era of tax competition.

1. The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) capped the deductibility of state and local taxes on federal tax returns, effectively increasing the “felt cost” of state and local taxes.
2. The COVID-19 pandemic introduced a new era of remote work, resulting in unprecedented flexibility for workers and businesses to relocate.

NEBRASKA IS LOSING TAXPAYERS TO OTHER STATES



Nebraska lost nearly \$500 million of annual income between the 2019 and 2020 tax years, costing the state nearly 1% of annual income.



This ranks Nebraska 45th out of 50 states for gaining and losing income from other states. The states that gained the most income from Nebraska all have significantly lower income tax rates than Nebraska.

LAWMAKERS MADE SOME PROGRESS IN 2022

Nebraska’s LB873 will reduce state income taxes over time.



If it had been fully implemented this year, Nebraska’s tax competitiveness would improve from 35th to 28th, according to the Tax Foundation. Many other states are making major improvements to their income tax codes.

A Blueprint for a Better Tax System

Blueprint Nebraska designed a broad tax reform plan to welcome more workers and taxpayers to Nebraska. The key provisions: flatten the state income tax, reduce top income tax rates to 4.99%, exempt the first \$50,000 of individual income from state tax, and broaden the state sales tax.

TAX MODERNIZATION ALSO MEANS

- Ending the outdated county inheritance tax.
- Eliminating a tax increase on farms and factories by offering Full Expensing for investments in machinery and equipment.

Real property tax reform:

- Replacing property tax credits with permanent cuts to property taxes.
- Supporting & strengthening Nebraska’s Truth in Taxation law.
- Getting rid of property taxes on business equipment.

Truth in Taxation

Accountability for Political Subdivisions that Want to Collect More Tax Dollars

The Platte Institute is taking the lead on informing taxpayers about their opportunity to engage directly with the political subdivisions that collect most of their property taxes. Check out PLATTEINSTITUTE.ORG/TRUTH to learn more.

PREVENTING AUTOMATIC WINDFALLS

Cities, counties, school districts, and community colleges seeking a property tax revenue increase exceeding 2% plus real growth must participate in a Truth in Taxation hearing between September 17-28.

FULLY INFORMING TAXPAYERS

Postcards are mailed to taxpayers informing them of the proposed tax increases, when and where to attend a Truth in Taxation hearing, and how to contact taxing entities for more information.

Joint hearings are held after 6pm and property tax increases are the only agenda item, making it easy for taxpayers to let elected officials know their views on proposed tax increases.

PLATTEINSTITUTE.ORG/TRUTH

MAKING THE CASE

Taxing entities must present their proposed tax rate, show what the tax rate would be if property tax revenue levels were kept the same as the prior year, and take public comment on the proposed increase.

GOING ON RECORD

After complying with the notification and hearing process, taxing entities can choose to adopt a tax increase with a recorded vote at a regular meeting.

TRUTH IN TAXATION: A PROVEN POLICY



Since enacting Truth in Taxation, Utah property taxes have improved from 24th lowest to 14th lowest. In Kansas' first year of Truth in Taxation, 52% of taxing subdivisions opted not to raise property taxes.

A WINNING ISSUE WITH ALL VOTER GROUPS

