

State Laws and Statutes That Suspend Professional Licenses and Certificates

Tracked and compiled by the National Consumer Law Center in 2014

State	Statute	Professions impacted
Alaska	Alaska Stat. § 14.43.148 (general)	Any job requiring a professional license (defined here , including nursing, pharmacist, social worker, veterinarians, dentistry, attorneys), teacher (K-12), EMS workers, and correctional officers.
California	Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 685 (West) (health care practitioners)	Health care practitioner or a licensed clinical social worker. Note: Became effective July 1, 2003.
Florida	Fla. Stat. §§ 456.072, 456.074 (Health Professions and Occupations)	Any job requiring a health profession license (defined here), including: Registered Nurse, Radiologic Technologist, and School Psychologist. Note: In addition to suspending license, they add on “a fine equal to 10 percent of the defaulted loan amount.”
Georgia	Ga. Code Ann. §§ 7-1-707.1 (check cashers), 12-6-49.2 (professional forestry), 20-3-295 (general), 43-1-29 (general)	Any job requiring a professional license.
Hawaii	Haw. Rev. Stat. §§ 436B-19.6 (general) , 436C-2 (general), 189-2(f) (commercial marine licenses), 302A-807(e) (school personnel) , 321-15 (Department of Health), 431:9-235 (insurance adjusters and bill reviewers), 431:9A-112 (insurance producers), 457-9 (nurses) , 466J-8 (radiological technology)	
Illinois	20 Ill. Comp. Stat. §§ 2105/2105-15 (general) ; 215 Ill. Comp. Stat. § 5/500-70 (insurance producers); 225 Ill. Comp. Stat. §§ 30/95 (dietetic and nutrition servicers), 37/35 (environmental health practitioners), 55/85 (marriage and family therapists), 107/80 (professional counselors), 110/16 (speech-language pathology and audiology), 135/95 (genetic counselors), 335/9.1 (roofing), 410/4-7 (barbers, cosmetologists), 425/9 (debt collectors), 441/15-10(e), 447/40-35 (private detectives, security, locksmiths), 450/20.01 (certified public accountants), 458/15-45 (real estate appraiser); 420 Ill. Comp. Stat. § 44/45 (radon industry)	Explicitly name professions impacted in statute names. Note: Became effective June 1, 1996.
Iowa	Iowa Code Ann. R. 35.21 ; Iowa Code §§ 261.121/-/261.127 (general)	Attorneys (via R. 35.21); 261.121 allows the state to suspend any license issued

		by the state (including driver licenses).
Kentucky	Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 164.772 (West) (general) , 314.091(l)(i) (West) (nurses)	Any professional license issued by the state, additional penalties for nurses. Note: Became effective July 15, 2002. State can withhold lottery winnings due to student loan default, additionally.
Louisiana	La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 37:2951 (general)	All applications for any license, permit, or certificate required by the state of Louisiana to “in order to practice or engage in a trade, occupation, or profession.” Note: Became effective July 20, 1990.
Massachusetts	Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. chs. 30A § 13 (general) , 112 § 61 (Department of Public Health)	Massachusetts “shall deny issuance of a professional or occupational certificate, registration, license, or authority to any applicant who is in such default”.
Minnesota	Minn. Stat. § 147.091(1)(y) (physicians), § 214.105 (health professions)	Any health-related licensing board can deny professional licenses, and any physician can lose their license. Note: Created in 2001.
Mississippi	Miss. Code Ann. §§ 37-101-291 , 37-101-293 (paid educational leave for health care professionals), 37-101-292 (same for civil engineers), 41-9-37 (same for hospital employees)	“Health care professions” means nurses, nurse practitioners, speech pathologists, psychologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and any other critical need profession determined by the sponsoring state health institution; “civil engineer at the Mississippi Department of Transportation”; and “health-care occupation as a licensed practical nurse, registered nurse, nurse practitioner, speech pathologist, occupational therapist, physical therapist or other health-care professional”. Note: Became effective July 1, 1999.
Montana	Mont. Code Ann. § 20-26-1115 to 20-16-1121	Any license issued by the state: ““License” means a license, certificate, registration, or authorization issued by an agency of the state of Montana granting a person a right or privilege to engage in a business, occupation, or profession or any other privilege that is subject to suspension, revocation, forfeiture, or termination.” Note: Became effective in 1997.
New Jersey	N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 2A:13-12 (attorneys) , 18A:71C-19 (general), 45:1-21.2 (same) (West);	45:1-21:2: “a board shall suspend, as appropriate, after a hearing, the

	N.J. Ct. R. 1:20-11B (attorneys)	license, registration or certification of any person who has" defaulted. NJ Ct. R. 1:20-11B went into effect May 1, 2002.
New Mexico	N.M. Stat. Ann. § 61-17A-21 (barbers and cosmetologists)	Note: Went into effect in 1993; "DELAYED REPEALS. --For termination of agency and repeal of this section, see 61-17A-25 NMSA 1978. EDITOR'S NOTES. --Laws 2013, ch. 166, § 4, amended 61-17A-25 NMSA 1978 which changed the repeal of this section from July 1, 2014 to July 1, 2020. Cosmetology & Hair Care."
North Dakota	N.D. Cent. Code § 28-25-11 (general--judgment debtors)	Any profession requiring a professional license. "The court, after considering the factors in subsection 1, shall address and make specific findings on the issue of whether the judgment debtor has an occupational or a professional certificate license or permit issued by or on behalf of the state or any occupational or professional boards, which the judgment debtor is required to obtain before engaging in the judgment debtor's occupation or profession. The court, based on principles of fairness, including consideration of whether the judgment debtor has been unjustly enriched, may suspend a judgment debtor's certificate, license, or permit."
Oklahoma	Okla. Stat. tit. 70, § 623.1 (general); Okla. Admin. Code § 595:10-1-80 (commercial drivers)	"'License" means a license, certificate, registration, permit, approval or other similar document issued by a licensing board granting to an individual a right or privilege to engage in a profession, occupation or business, including Class A, B or C commercial driver licenses issued pursuant to Title 47 of the Oklahoma Statutes." A C driver licenses is any regular driver license.
Tennessee	Tenn. Code. Ann. §§ 23-3-111 (authorizing Supreme Court to establish guidelines for attorneys), 49-5-108 (authorizing State Board of Education to establish guidelines for teachers), 56-1-312 (general), 63-1-141 (healing arts professionals)	Includes: "issuance and administration of licenses for supervisors, principals and public school teachers for kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12)". Note: Became effective in 1999.
Texas	Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 57.491 (West)	"'License" means a certificate or similar

	(general); Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §§ 82.022(c) (West) (lawyers), 466.155(a)(3)(B) , (C) (West) (state lottery agents); Tex. Occ. Code Ann. § 56.001/-/56.006 (West) (general)	form of permission issued or renewed by a licensing agency and required by law to engage in a profession or occupation.” Occupational code applies to: (1) Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners; (2) State Board of Dental Examiners; (3) Texas State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners; and (4) Texas State Board of Medical Examiners. Note: First statute became effective on September 1, 2005, last occupational code became effective June 11, 2001.
Virginia	Va. Code Ann. § 54.1-2400.5 (health professions)	“Suspension of license, certificate, registration or other authorization issued by a health regulatory board upon delinquency; procedure; reinstatement.” Note: Approved April 2, 2003.
Washington	Wash. Rev. Code §§ 2.48.165 (lawyers), § 18.04.420 (accountants), 18.08.470 (architects), 18.11.270 (auctioneers), 18.16.230 (cosmetologists, barbers and manicurists), 18.20.200 (boarding homes), 18.27.360 (contractors), 18.39.465 (embalmers, funeral directors), 18.43.160 (engineers and land surveyors), 18.44.460 (escrow agents), 18.46.055 (birthing centers), 18.76.100 (poison center directors or specialists), 18.85.341 (real estate brokers and salespersons), 18.96.190 (landscape architects), 18.104.115 (water well construction), 18.106.290 (plumbers), 18.130.125 (health professionals), 18.140.200 (real estate appraisers), 18.160.085 (fire system sprinkler contractors), 18.165.280 (private investigators), 18.170.163 (security guards), 18.185.055 (bail bond agents)	
Arkansas*	Ark. Code Ann. § 17-95-409	

*breach of Rural Medical Practice student loan or scholarship contract.