



Wisconsin-licensed and certified professionals oppose AB 369 and SB 288 relating to occupational licenses and AB 370 and SB 296 relating to the creation of a self-certification registry.

We stand united as a diverse coalition of Wisconsin professional organizations against proposed legislation that will establish a new Occupational License Review Council (OLRC) and self-certification registry under the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS). We urge you to strongly oppose AB 369, SB 288, AB 370, and SB 296 – which will negatively impact tens of thousands of Wisconsin professionals – for the following reasons:

- The creation of the OLRC is unnecessary. During the Joint Finance Committee's (JFC) consideration of the 2017-2019 Biennial Budget Bill, an amendment was adopted requiring DSPS to conduct a study of occupational licenses. AB 369 and SB 288's formation of the OLRC, therefore, establishes needless government bureaucracy.
- AB 369 and SB 288 provide excessive legislative drafting authority to the OLRC. Specifically, these bills require the Legislative Reference Bureau to prepare legislation based on the OLRC's recommendations and requires the proposed legislation to be introduced without change and referred to an appropriate standing committee in each house.
- AB 370 and SB 296 do not improve public safety. AB 370 and SB 296 establish a new self-certification registry. Of particular concern is that the new "state certified" designation will not come from DSPS, but rather, from five unidentified non-governmental organizations and trade associations that are entirely unaccountable to the citizens of Wisconsin.

The current board and council structure at DSPS is working.

The above-mentioned legislation is an unsolicited solution in search of a problem. The independent boards and councils at DSPS are comprised primarily of professionals who practice in the specialty for which they are given regulatory oversight. As a result, the boards and councils possess profession-specific knowledge that allows for the greatest possible protection of public safety. However, the provisions contained in AB 369, SB 288, AB 370, and SB 296 would negatively impact profession-specific expertise and decrease the level of public safety that each board and council has worked hard to protect.