

VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF HEALTH PROFESSIONAL LICENSE OR REGISTRATION

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House Bill 4929 (H-2) as reported from committee

Sponsor: Rep. Joseph G. Pavlov

Committee: Rules

Complete to 11-3-25

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4929 would amend the Public Health Code to allow a licensed or registered health professional to submit a request to voluntarily surrender their license or registration by delivering their certificate of licensure or registration to the director of the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) with a written notice stating their intent to surrender the license or registration. The notice would have to be on a form prescribed by LARA.

A license or registration would be considered surrendered beginning on the date LARA receives the request described above. However, LARA would have to deny a request if either of the following applies:

- LARA determines that the licensee or registrant is surrendering the license or registration in an attempt to avoid disciplinary action.
- LARA has received an allegation under section 16231 of the code¹ that the licensee or registrant has violated Article 7 (Controlled Substances), Article 8 (Pharmaceutical Grade Cannabis), or Article 15 (Occupations) of the code.

The surrender of a license or registration would not affect the individual's civil or criminal liability for acts committed before the surrender, and it would not terminate the authority of the relevant professional board to impose sanctions on that individual.

Beginning eight years after the date they voluntarily surrender their license or registration, the individual could apply for a license or registration in the same health profession in the same manner as an applicant who is applying for relicensure or reregistration more than three years after their licensure or registration expired. (Under those provisions, the individual would have to apply as a new applicant, meet all licensure or registration requirements in effect at the time of application, take or retake and pass any exams required for initial licensure or registration, and pay the fees required of new applicants.)

LARA could not refund any fees for a license surrendered before its expiration date.

The bill would take effect 90 days after being enacted.

MCL 333.16201 and proposed MCL 333.16202

¹ <https://www.legislature.mi.gov/Laws/MCL?objectName=MCL-333-16231>

BRIEF DISCUSSION:

According to a 2025 LARA report on regulatory reform in Michigan,² “Licensees often ask for the ability to permanently relinquish their license, but there is no legal mechanism that allows them to do so, even in instances of death.” The LARA report recommended providing a means in the law to accommodate the voluntary and permanent relinquishment of a license. The bill would make this change with regard to health professionals. Currently, if an individual wants to let go of a license because of retirement or a career change or any other reason, their only way to do so is to not renew and then ignore the notices that their license is going to lapse, has lapsed, etc. Supporters note that allowing voluntary relinquishment would also save the departmental resources needed to send those notices that will only be ignored.

BACKGROUND:

Health fields with professions licensed or registered under Article 15 of the Public Health Code include acupuncture, athletic training, applied behavior analysis, audiology, chiropractic, counseling, dentistry, dietetics and nutrition, marriage and family therapy, massage therapy, medicine, midwifery, nursing, nursing home administration, occupational therapy, optometry, osteopathic medicine, pharmacy, physical therapy, podiatry, psychology, respiratory therapy, sanitary sciences, social work, speech-language pathology, and veterinary medicine.

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4929 would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. The bill would allow licensed health professionals to voluntarily surrender their licenses with a written notice on a form created by the department. LARA would likely incur costs associated with implementing the new process, though any costs are likely to be minimal.

POSITIONS:

The following entities indicated support for the bill (10-30-25):

- Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
- Mackinac Center for Public Policy

Legislative Analyst: Rick Yuille
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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

² https://www.michigan.gov/lara/-/media/Project/Websites/lara/about/LARA_CuttingRedTapeReport-1.pdf