

# Summary of Legislation

## 2026



## Professions and Occupations

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During the 2026 legislative session, the Colorado General Assembly considered several measures to change or expand the licensing and certification of certain professions including accountants, marriage and family therapists, and death care professionals. The General Assembly also passed several laws continuing the regulation of certain professions under the state sunrise and sunset review process.

### Changes to Regulated Professions

The Division of Professions and Occupations administers the Occupational Credential Portability Program that permits credentialed professionals from other states to work in Colorado with equivalent credentials. [House Bill 26-1431](#) expands this program to encompass professionals with equivalent credentials from other countries.

Certified public accountants (CPA) currently must complete a bachelor's degree, a professional ethics course, the CPA examination, and one year of relevant experience for certification. [Senate Bill 26-076](#) permits new combinations of bachelor's degrees and work experience to expand the ways an individual may earn certification. To be applicable, work

experience must incorporate public service. The bill further clarifies that licensed CPAs from other states or jurisdictions that have fulfilled these requirements may practice in Colorado without obtaining a Colorado certificate.

Under current law, marriage and family therapists must complete an internship or practicum. [House Bill 26-1228](#) permits graduates of master's or doctoral programs that did not include an internship or practicum to instead complete 700 supervised clinical hours for certification.

[House Bill 26-1258](#) makes several changes to laws related to the work of funeral homes, mortuaries, and crematories. The bill applies existing penalties for violations of the mortuary science code to cremationists and natural reductionists and adds new elements to the crime of abuse of a corpse.

Additionally, the bill:

- requires funeral establishments to have a physical location;
- allows cremation or natural reduction to begin 60 days rather than 30 days after death;
- creates a new license by endorsement for various funeral practitioners;
- modifies and expands some of the powers and duties of the division related

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to the regulation of death-care related professions; and

- extends the regulation of these professions for two years.

## Sunset Reviews

The Division of Professions and Occupations is subject to a ten-year sunset review cycle.

This year, [House Bill 26-1324](#) recommended several changes to the regulatory authority of the division including:

- sending correspondence to licensees electronically;
- changing an excise tax to a fee and increase the fee on license renewals; and
- expanding options for certain engineering professions to qualify for licensure.

Based on the 2025 sunset review of the Barbers and Cosmetologists Act, [House Bill 26-1181](#) continues the regulation of these professions until September 1, 2033.

The bill repeals the act's advisory committee, specifies that certain services and providers are exempt from regulation, and updates definitions and terminology.