Idaho Legislature

FINAL REPORT: OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE REVIEW COMMITTEE

November 1, 2026

Authorizing Statute or Concurrent Resolution:
Section 67-9408, Idaho Code (2026)

Prepared by:

LSO
Legislative Services Office

COMMITTEE SUMMARY

MEMBERS:

Senator Lori Den Hartog (Cochair)
Senator Todd M. Lakey
Senator Carl J. Bjerke
Senator Janie Ward-Engelking

Representative Kyle Harris (Cochair)
Representative James Holtzclaw
Representative Josh Wheeler
Representative John Gannon

STAFF:

[1] Matt Drake, Division Manager, Research and Legislation
[2] Alex Penny, Principal Research Analyst
[3] Linda Jensen, Committee Secretary

MEETING DATES:

September 17, 2026

COMMITTEE CHARGE

Pursuant to Section 67-9408, Idaho Code, the Occupational and Professional Licensure Review Committee is charged with determining how the legislature may be able to ease occupational licensing barriers while still protecting the public health and safety, including through conducting sunrise and sunset reviews, as applicable.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE

During the 2026 interim, the committee conducted a sunrise review pertaining to an application submitted by James O'Bryant of OBryant Locksmith, Inc. (the Applicant) seeking regulation for locksmiths. A copy of the application is included in the appendix of this report on page 7.

LSO has previously submitted a report with factual analysis to the committee and the applicant. A copy of LSO's report is included in the appendix of this report on page 14.

MEETINGS AND SCOPE OF STUDY

On September 17, 2026, the committee met to hear a presentation by the Applicant, to hear public testimony, and to discuss its recommendations to the Legislature. The Committee also heard a presentation by the Council of State Governments regarding interstate compacts.

FINAL REPORT PURPOSE

Pursuant to Section 67-9408(4)(d)(iii), Idaho Code, the Committee shall, by November 1:

"[P]repare a written recommendation as to whether a requested occupation or profession should be licensed in the manner set forth in the application and shall deliver such recommendation to the president pro tempore of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives for subsequent delivery to the appropriate germane committee chairpersons. Such written recommendation may include nonmandatory suggestions as to how the application, including the proposed legislation, may be improved. An applicant receiving such suggestions shall be encouraged to follow the recommended suggestions of the committee before offering the legislation for introduction during the next legislative session."

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS OR ACTIONS

At the Committee's meeting on September 17, 2026, Representative Wheeler moved to maintain the current status quo with no regulatory framework. The motion passed by a voice vote.

The committee further discussed including additional information in the final report pertaining to:

1. An analysis of the possibility of a registration model for locksmiths;
2. An assessment of the possibility of a national credential; and
3. Input from Idaho State Police, the Idaho Sheriffs' Association, and the Fraternal Order of Police.

Each of those items is addressed in this report.

REGISTRATION MODEL FOR LOCKSMITHS

The Idaho Contractor Registration Act, Chapter 52, Title 54, Idaho Code, provides a potential analogue for locksmith registration. Administered by the Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses (DOPL) and the Idaho Contractors Board, this chapter requires contractors to register before engaging in the business of construction as a contractor. Applicants must apply to DOPL, pay registration and renewal fees, and provide proof of general liability insurance and workers' compensation coverage.

Contractors must display their registration number on advertising and specified business documents. DOPL also provides a public registry of registered contractors and possesses authority to discipline registrants for specified violations, including dishonest dealings and violations of the Idaho Consumer Protection Act. Applicants for registration are not required to undergo a criminal background check or fingerprinting during the registration process.

A comparable locksmith registration framework could help consumers identify legitimate service providers by verifying registration status. Depending on its design, it could also require insurance and provide a mechanism for addressing specific instances of misconduct.

Registration alone, however, would not automatically establish technical competence or screen individuals for criminal history as those objectives would require additional statutory language and administrative processes with associated costs. The framework's suitability would therefore depend on the specific consumer protection concerns the Legislature intends to address and whether its anticipated benefits justify the costs and burdens imposed on industry stakeholders.

Implementation of locksmith registration would require legislation establishing the desired statutory framework, likely through adding a new chapter of Idaho Code to Title 54 and assigning administrative responsibilities to DOPL. The legislation would need to define covered locksmith services and exemptions; determine whether registration applies to businesses, individual practitioners, or both; and establish application, renewal, disclosure, and enforcement requirements.

Startup and ongoing costs would include costs to configure the locksmith registration requirements in DOPL's online licensing system, application processing, public inquiries, and any authorized complaint investigation or enforcement efforts. A reliable fiscal estimate would depend on the number of initial registrants and the program's overall scope. Funding would be provided through registration fees.

NATIONAL CREDENTIALS FOR LOCKSMITHS

The committee asked about national organizations that operate a registry of locksmiths or that grant other credentials. While a few organizations exist, we identified the ALOA Security Professionals Association, Inc. (ALOA) as the most prominent professional organization. As mentioned in LSO's report, ALOA offers multiple certifications for locksmiths, but there is not necessarily one industry standard certification. We ultimately found that three states accept some ALOA certifications or courses in their licensing process; however, ALOA certifications are voluntary in most states.

Of the 14 States that regulate locksmiths, nine require a certification, training, and/or an exam for state licensure. Complete tables showing the requirements for licensure in other states can be found on pages 31 through 34 of this report. Most of those states, including North Carolina, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Texas, Oregon, and Virginia, do not require or accept the passage of an ALOA certification or exam. Instead, these states use exams and courses developed by the licensing bodies or they accept various combinations of training and education.

According to the ALOA website, their Certified Licensed Locksmith (CLL) exam is required for licensure in Louisiana and Alabama. The website also states that locksmiths in Illinois must take certain ALOA exams and courses for licensure. Our research suggests that applicants in Alabama, Louisiana, and Illinois may be able to pass courses or exams from other organizations that the licensing bodies approve in certain circumstances. Nonetheless, some ALOA credentials are accepted in at least three states.

Currently, locksmiths in Idaho can voluntarily earn professional certifications, such as those from ALOA. However, any future statutory requirement that locksmiths pass a course or exam

from a national organization would likely need to be overseen by a regulatory body in Idaho to ensure compliance.

LAW ENFORCEMENT INPUT

LSO received responses from the Idaho Sheriffs' Association and the Idaho Fraternal Order of Police regarding locksmith regulation. The two law enforcement organizations indicated that they were unaware of any recent trends in crimes related to locksmiths and that the existing laws and regulations are likely sufficient to protect the public.

The entities were asked the following three questions. The complete responses are included as an appendix on page 36:

1. Are you aware of any events or trends that suggest crime related to locksmiths is increasing or decreasing?
    a. If yes, what trends exist?

2. To the best of your knowledge, do you believe current laws and regulations are sufficient to protect the public against the improper practice of locksmithing?
    a. If no, please elaborate and indicate if you believe increased regulation would help.

3. Is there anything else you believe would be helpful information regarding locksmiths for the committee and the Legislature to consider?

APPENDIX ITEMS

ITEM ONE: APPLICANT'S SUNRISE REVIEW APPLICATION – PG. 7

ITEM TWO: LSO SUNRISE APPLICATION REPORT: LOCKSMITHS – PG. 14

ITEM THREE: LAW ENFORCEMENT SURVEY RESPONSES – PG. 36

1. Applicant Information

NAME

James O'Bryant

ADDRESS

69 S Norcrest Ave
Nampa, ID 83687
United States

PHONE

(208) 995-6027

EMAIL

obryantlocksmith@gmail.com

ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATION

I am a Certified, Insured and Bonded Locksmith.

APPLICANT'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE PROFESSIONAL OR OCCUPATIONAL GROUP SEEKING REGULATION.

Owner of OBryant Locksmith, Inc

2. Professional or Occupational Group Information

WHAT IS THE PROFESSIONAL OR OCCUPATIONAL GROUP FOR WHICH THE APPLICANT IS SEEKING REGULATION?

Locksmith Services in Idaho

IS THE GROUP KNOWN BY MORE THAN ONE NAME?

No

3. WHAT IS THE APPLICANT SEEKING TO GAIN THROUGH THE REGULATION OF THE PROFESSIONAL OR OCCUPATIONAL GROUP?

As Idaho's population has grown, so too has the number of unqualified or fraudulent locksmith operations. Many of these companies advertise under misleading names, arrive without proper training, fail to verify proof of residence or ownership, and often charge excessive fees for substandard work. This not only harms consumers financially, but also poses serious risks to public safety and trust.

Currently, Idaho does not require locksmiths to hold a license, which makes it easy for scam operations to proliferate. Other states have implemented locksmith licensing to help protect consumers, ensure background checks are completed, and maintain professional standards in the industry. I believe Idaho would greatly benefit from adopting similar measures.

As a local business owner who takes pride in providing honest, professional locksmith services, I respectfully ask that you consider sponsoring legislation—or initiating a discussion through the appropriate committee—to establish locksmith licensing in our state. I would be glad to provide additional information, share examples from other states, or participate in hearings to support this effort.

4. ESTIMATED NUMBER OF IDAHO PRACTITIONERS

100

4A. EXPLAIN HOW THIS ESTIMATE WAS DERIVED.

25 Officially Registered Businesses and 40-75 more seen in listings or online. These numbers were derived on online searches using Google Search, Yahoo search, Microsoft Edge and AI platforms such as ChatGPT and CoPilot.

5. DESCRIBE THE FUNCTIONS PERFORMED BY MEMBERS OF THIS OCCUPATIONAL GROUP. NOTE WHICH FUNCTIONS ARE UNSUPERVISED OR SUPERVISED AND BY WHOM. IN ADDITION, INDICATE FUNCTIONS THAT ARE SIMILAR TO

THOSE PERFORMED BY OTHER GROUPS AND IDENTIFY THOSE GROUPS.

Residential Lockouts, Commercial Lockouts, Vehicle Lockouts, Storage Unit Lockouts, Residential and Commercial Rekeying and Lock Installation/Repair/Replacement, Residential and Commercial Key Cutting/Duplicating and Replacements, Vehicle Key Cutting/Programming/Duplicating and Replacements. Personal Safe Opening and Reprogramming.

All Unsupervised at Customers Homes and Businesses.

No Other Groups Perform These Type of Tasks Except for Car Dealerships Cutting and Programming Vehicle Keys.

6. DESCRIBE THE MINIMUM COMPETENCIES NECESSARY TO ENTER THIS PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION.

Idaho Currently Has Zero Educational/Competency Requirements for Locksmiths. At a minimum Locksmiths Should Require a Locksmith Training Certification.

7. DESCRIBE THE CLIENT GROUP(S) WITH WHICH THIS PROFESSIONAL OR OCCUPATIONAL GROUP DEALS.

All Age Groups Starting at The Legal Driving Age for All Idaho Residents and Business Owners Alike. If You Can Drive a Car, You Can Accidentally Lose The Keys or Lock Them Inside the Vehicle. Teenagers, Young Adults, Mature Adults, the Elderly... Almost Everyone Accidentally Locks Themselves Out of Their Home or Bedroom or Vehicle or Office or Business at Some Point.

8. DESCRIBE AND PROVIDE EXAMPLES OF THE TYPICAL WORK SETTINGS OF THIS PROFESSIONAL OR OCCUPATIONAL GROUP.

Typical Work Settings:
Arrive at customer's house or apartment because they have locked themselves out or they would like to rekey or replace locks or add locks for extra security. So we must break into their home for them or remove and rekey all the current locks to a new key.

Arrive at a grocery store or the customer's home or customer's place of work, where they have locked the keys in their car. So we break into the car for them. Often times the car will be out front of the house, in the driveway or inside their garage. Or they have lost the keys and need a new vehicle key cut and programmed to their vehicle.

Arrive at business that needs the locks rekeyed because they had to fire an employee and change the locks so the employee cannot have access to the building or office anymore.

Locksmiths enter the homes, businesses and vehicles of Idahoans everyday with no regulations. No background checks to verify if they are felons or even citizens. Or even someone with any Locksmith Training....

9. TYPE OF REGULATION PROPOSED

- Licensure - Under licensure, it is illegal for anyone to engage in a profession or occupation without a license, and only persons who posses certain qualifications are licensed.
- Certification - Certification protects specific professional or occupational titles of persons who have met certain educational and experiential standards. Only person certified in that occupation or profession may use the protected title, although anyone may practice the occupation.
- Registration - Under registration, any person may engage in an occupation, but he or she is required to submit information concerning the location, nature, and operation of the practice.
- Other

9A. EXPLAIN WHY THE ABOVE TYPE OF REGULATION IS BEING PROPOSED.

We enter peoples homes, bedrooms, businesses and vehicles every single day. It is important to keep Idahoans safe and know that the person coming into their home is Licensed and Federally background checked. At the very least trained and certified in the tasks they are there to perform.

10. EXPLAIN WHY LICENSURE, CERTIFICATION, REGISTRATION OR OTHER TYPE OF REGULATION OF THE PROFESSIONAL OR OCCUPATION IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT AGAINST PRESENT, RECOGNIZABLE, AND SUFFICIENT HARM TO THE HEALTH, SAFETY, OR WELFARE OF THE PUBLIC.

Licensure, certification, and background checks for locksmiths are critical safeguards for the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Locksmiths have unique access to homes, businesses, vehicles, and secure facilities. Without

proper regulation, this access can be exploited, leading to serious and preventable harm.

11. EXPLAIN WHY THE PROPOSED LICENSING OR OTHER REGULATION IS THE LEAST RESTRICTIVE REGULATION NECESSARY TO PROTECT AGAINST PRESENT, RECOGNIZABLE, AND SUFFICIENT HARM TO THE HEALTH, SAFETY, OR WELFARE OF THE PUBLIC TO WARRANT THE REGULATION PROPOSED.

Present and Recognizable Risks:
• Unvetted Access to Private Property: Locksmiths can bypass locks and security systems. Without background checks, individuals with criminal intent could exploit this role to commit theft, fraud, or even violent crimes.
• Consumer Vulnerability: In emergency lockout situations, consumers are often desperate and may unknowingly hire unqualified or unscrupulous individuals. This opens the door to price gouging, scams, and unsafe workmanship.
• Lack of Accountability: In the absence of a licensing body, there is no formal mechanism to track complaints, enforce ethical standards, or remove bad actors from the profession.

12. INDICATE HOW THE PUBLIC WOULD BE PROTECTED BY REGULATION OF THIS PROFESSIONAL OR OCCUPATIONAL GROUP AND EXPLAIN WHY THE PUBLIC IS NOT PROTECTED BY OTHER MEANS.

Regulation Protects the Public:
• Licensure and Certification ensure that locksmiths meet minimum standards of training, competence, and ethical conduct.
• Background Checks help prevent individuals with histories of theft, burglary, or violent crime from gaining access to sensitive locations.
• Registration and Oversight create a system of accountability, allowing consumers to verify credentials and report misconduct.

13. ESTIMATE THE IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED REGULATION ON THE SUPPLY OF PRACTITIONERS IN THE PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION, INCLUDING THE DEGREE TO WHICH EXISTING PRACTITIONERS WOULD BE PRECLUDED FROM PRACTICE.

The proposed regulation: Requiring licensure, certification, and background checks for locksmiths in Idaho—will have a positive net impact on both the profession and the public. While it should reduce the number of unqualified or criminally-inclined individuals operating under the guise of legitimate locksmiths, it will strengthen the integrity and trustworthiness of the industry as a whole.
The total number of practitioners may initially decline as unqualified individuals exit the field.
• However, this will be a strategic contraction, removing those who pose a risk to public safety.
• Over time, the profession will stabilize and grow with qualified entrants who meet the standards. Creating a healthier, more sustainable workforce.

14. DESCRIBE THE ANTICIPATED IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED LICENSING OR OTHER REGULATION ON JOB CREATION JOB RETENTION, AND WAGES IN THE STATE.

Trained, background-checked locksmiths will benefit from a more level playing field. They will no longer have to compete with fly-by-night operators who undercut prices and tarnish the reputation of the trade.
Regulation will elevate the profession, encouraging continued education, ethical standards, and consumer trust; ultimately leading to increased demand for certified professionals.

15. DESCRIBE ANY ANTICIPATED DISQUALIFICATIONS FROM LICENSURE, CERTIFICATION, RELICENSURE, OR RECERTIFICATION AND HOW THOSE DISQUALIFICATIONS WOULD SERVE PUBLIC SAFETY, COMMERCIAL, OR CONSUMER PROTECTION INTERESTS.

Reduction in Unqualified or Fraudulent Operators
• Scam locksmith companies, often run by individuals with criminal records or no formal training, will be precluded from practice under the new standards.
• These entities frequently exploit emergency situations, overcharge customers, damage property, and compromise security. Removing them from the market will protect consumers from financial and physical harm.

16. TO WHAT DEGREE WOULD THE PROPOSED REGULATION EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY AFFECT THE COST OF GOODS OR SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE PROFESSIONAL OR OCCUPATIONAL GROUP?

The proposed regulation: Requiring licensure, certification, and background checks for locksmiths would lower overall costs for legitimate businesses and protect consumers from inflated pricing driven by fraudulent operators.
Current Cost Burden Due to Unregulated Market:
• Consumer Overpayment: Scam locksmith companies often charge 2–3x standard rates, especially during emergency lockouts, exploiting vulnerable situations with no accountability.

• Inflated Advertising Costs: Legitimate locksmiths must spend $1,000–$2,000 per month on aggressive digital marketing just to compete with deceptive companies that flood search engines with fake listings.
• Reputation Damage: The presence of untrained or criminally-inclined operators erodes public trust, forcing ethical businesses to invest more in branding, insurance, and customer reassurance.

17. DESCRIBE HOW THE BENEFITS OF THE PROPOSED LICENSING OR OTHER REGULATION WOULD OUTWEIGH THE OVERALL COST AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED REGULATION, INCLUDING THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS TO CONSUMERS.

Post-Regulation Cost Improvements:
• Reduced Competition from Scammers: With background checks and licensing requirements in place, fraudulent companies will be removed from the market, reducing advertising wars and allowing legitimate businesses to scale back marketing spend.
• Lower Operating Costs: Businesses will no longer need to overinvest in damage control, legal protections, or emergency response systems to counteract scam-related fallout.
• Consumer Savings: With fewer bad actors inflating prices, and legitimate locksmiths able to operate more efficiently, service costs will stabilize or decrease, especially for routine jobs like residential lockouts or rekeying.

18. WITHIN THE USUAL PRACTICE OF THIS OCCUPATION, DOCUMENT THE PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL OR FINANCIAL HARM TO CLIENTS THAT COULD RESULT FROM A PRACTITIONER'S FAILURE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SERVICE.

Locksmiths hold a position of immense trust. They are granted access to homes, vehicles, businesses, and safes; often during emergencies. When practitioners fail to provide adequate service, or worse, operate without proper training or oversight, the consequences can be severe and multifaceted.
Physical Harm:
• Unsafe Installations: Poorly installed locks or security systems can fail during break-ins, leaving occupants vulnerable to assault or injury.
• Delayed Emergency Access: In cases where individuals are locked inside vehicles or buildings (pets, children or elderly persons), delays caused by untrained locksmiths can result in heatstroke, hypothermia, or other medical emergencies.
Emotional Harm:
• Violation of Privacy: Clients who discover that a locksmith was a convicted felon or scammer often report feelings of fear, anxiety, and betrayal. Especially when the locksmith has accessed personal living spaces.
• Trauma After Break-Ins: Inadequate service can lead to compromised security, resulting in burglaries. Victims frequently experience emotional distress, sleep disruption, and long-term anxiety about home safety.
Financial Harm:
• Scam Pricing: Fraudulent locksmiths have been documented charging $500–$1,000 for simple lockouts that should cost under $150. These inflated fees often come with threats or coercion.
• Property Damage: Untrained practitioners may damage doors, locks, or vehicles during service, leaving clients with repair bills that can exceed $1,000.
• Security Breaches: In one case, a locksmith installed a lock with a master key system and later used it to access the property and steal valuables. The financial loss was compounded by the emotional trauma and legal costs.

19. DOES THE CURRENT LACK OF REGULATION OF THIS GROUP MAKE ITS PRACTITIONERS INELIGIBLE FOR PAYMENTS OR GRANTS THAT THEY WOULD OTHERWISE BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE?

Yes

20. ARE THERE ACCREDITED AND NONACCREDITED PROGRAMS IN IDAHO TO PREPARE PRACTITIONERS FOR ENTRY INTO THIS PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION?

Yes

20A. LIST INSTITUTIONS, PROGRAM TITLES, AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR SUCH PROGRAMS OFFERING ACCREDITED AND NONACCREDITED PROGRAMS IN IDAHO TO PREPARE PRACTITIONERS FOR ENTRY INTO THIS PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION.

Institution	Program Title	Contact Information	Program Cost
Foley Belsaw Locksmithing	Deluxe Professional Locksmithing Online Course	https://foleybelsawlocksmithing.com	$675.00

21. IS THERE AN EXAMINATION CURRENTLY USED TO MEASURE QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENTRY?

No

22. IS THIS PROFESSIONAL OR OCCUPATIONAL GROUP AFFILIATED WITH AN ASSOCIATION THAT SETS AND ENFORCES STANDARDS?

Yes

22A. IF SO, PLEASE EXPLAIN THE PROCESS AND STANDARDS.

Associated Locksmiths of America (ALOA)
• Role: ALOA is one of the most recognized professional organizations in North America.
• Standards: Offers certifications such as Certified Registered Locksmith (CRL), Certified Professional Locksmith (CPL), and Certified Master Locksmith (CML).
• Process:
• Members must pass written and practical exams.
• Adherence to a Code of Ethics is required.
• Continuing education is encouraged to maintain certification.
2. Society of Professional Locksmiths (SOPL)
• Role: SOPL focuses on education, peer review, and ethical standards.
• Standards:
• Provides structured online training and certification testing.
• Promotes integrity, skill development, and legal compliance.
• Offers support for business development and ethical practice.

Enforcement:
While these associations set high standards, they do not have legal enforcement power in states like Idaho where locksmithing is unregulated. Membership is voluntary, and practitioners are not required to be certified or affiliated to operate.
However, in states that do require licensing, these associations often play a role in:
• Credential verification
• Training approval
• Ethical oversight

22B. IDENTIFY ANY ASSOCIATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR OTHER GROUPS PRESENTLY REPRESENTING THE PRACTITIONERS OF THE OCCUPATIONAL GROUP.

Name of Group	Contact Information	Estimated Number of Idaho Members
Associated Locksmiths of America	Mailing Address: 1408 N. Riverfront Blvd., Suite 303 Dallas, TX 75207 • Phone: (214) 819-9733 • Email Contacts: • Membership: membership@aloa.org • Education: education@aloa.org	Not publicly disclosed
Society of Professional Locksmiths	Website: www.sopl.us • Headquarters Address: 6016 S Antrim Loop Tucson, Arizona 85706 • Phone: (661) 752-5625	Fewer than 25

23. ARE THERE FEDERAL, IDAHO STATE, COUNTY, OR LOCAL LAWS THAT CURRENTLY APPLY TO THE PRACTICE OF THIS PROFESSIONAL OR OCCUPATIONAL GROUP?

No

24. WHAT TYPE OF PRIVATE CREDENTIALING IS OR COULD BE AVAILABLE AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO GOVERNMENT REGULATION?

Associated Locksmiths of America (ALOA)
• Certifications Offered:
• Certified Registered Locksmith (CRL)
• Certified Professional Locksmith (CPL)
• Certified Master Locksmith (CML)
• Credentialing Process:
• Written and practical exams

• Adherence to a professional code of ethics
• Continuing education encouraged
• Benefits: Recognized nationally, boosts credibility, and may be required by employers or insurance providers.
2. Society of Professional Locksmiths (SOPL)
• Certifications Offered:
• SOPL Certified Locksmith
• Specialized training in electronic security, ethics, and business practices
• Credentialing Process:
• Online coursework and testing
• Background check via FullIdentity.com
• Benefits: Focuses on modern locksmithing skills and ethical standards; accessible to independent practitioners.

25. IS MANDATORY CONTINUING EDUCATION INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED REGULATION?

No

26. HAS THE PROFESSIONAL OR OCCUPATIONAL GROUP PREVIOUSLY BEEN REGULATED IN IDAHO?

No

27. IN HOW MANY OTHER STATES IS THE PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION REGULATED?

15

27A IDENTIFY THE STATES WHERE SUCH REGULATION PRESENTLY EXISTS.

State Name
Alabama
California
Connecticut
Illinois
Louisiana
Maryland
Nebraska
Nevada
New Jersey
North Carolina
Oklahoma
Oregon
Tennessee
Texas
Virginia

27B. SUBMIT A SOURCE FOR THE ABOVE INFORMATION WITH THIS APPLICATION.

28. PROVIDE ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION THAT THE APPLICANT BELIEVES WILL BE USEFUL FOR THE SUNRISE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW.

bestlocksmith.org

28A. SUBMIT ANY OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION THAT THE APPLICANT BELIEVES WILL BE USEFUL FOR THE

SUNRISE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW.

2026

Sunrise Application Report: Locksmiths

Date: August 1, 2026

LSO
Legislative Services Office

Table of Contents

Executive Summary 3
Sunrise Review Process 5
Current State of Locksmiths in Idaho 8
Application Request and Profession Scope 10
National Legislative Landscape and Regulation Requirements 11
Suggested Harm to the Public if the Profession is Not Regulated 13
Suggested Economic Impacts of Licensure 14
Opposition to the Licensure of Locksmiths 15
Conclusion 16
Considerations for Future Meetings 16
APPENDICES 17

Executive Summary

BACKGROUND:

Under Section 67-9408(4), Idaho Code, the Occupational and Professional Licensure Review Committee shall conduct a sunrise review upon request that a lawful profession or occupational group that is not licensed become licensed. The Legislative Services Office (LSO) is to submit a report with factual analysis to the committee by August 1. This report does not contain recommendations. It is intended to be used in conjunction with the application materials submitted.

WHO:

James O'Bryant ("the applicant") submitted this application for sunrise review ("the application"). Mr. O'Bryant is a locksmith. Locksmiths are not currently regulated in Idaho.

WHAT:

The applicant is asking the Legislature to require licensure, or a similar type of regulation, for locksmiths to practice in Idaho.

WHY:

The applicant provided two main reasons for the proposed licensure:

1. To protect the public's health, safety, and welfare by ensuring that background checks are completed for all persons holding themselves out as locksmiths.

2. To maintain professional standards in the industry.

HOW:

The applicant did not provide draft legislation for the proposed licensure. This report compiles the requirements and components for licensure found in other states that regulate the profession as a guide for the committee to consider what licensure might entail. **Appendices 1 and 2 provide a potential starting point for the committee.**

SUGGESTED IMPACT:

The applicant states that licensure of locksmiths would benefit the public health, safety, and welfare because locksmiths can access private spaces by bypassing locks and security systems. The applicant adds that without background checks, individuals with criminal intent could exploit this role to commit theft, fraud, or even violent crimes.

Moreover, the applicant states that licensure will have a positive impact on both the profession and the public because it will strengthen the integrity and trustworthiness of the industry by removing unqualified and "scam" locksmiths.

Specific instances of direct harm to the public caused by locksmiths in Idaho were not provided in the application.

Proposed Organization:

The applicant has requested that Idaho enact legislation to provide for the licensure of locksmiths. Such legislation could provide for the Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses to license locksmiths. A locksmith licensure board could be created and given the authority to set rules regarding fees, background checks, continuing education, and application and examination requirements. The board would also be a disciplinary body. The committee may also consider some form of more limited regulation, such as registration, that would not require a board but could include paying an application fee and registering with a state entity.

Other States:

LSO identified 14 states that currently regulate the locksmith profession:

- 12 states regulate through licensure, certification, or registration.
- 1 state delegates this issue to counties and requires permits.
- 1 state includes locksmiths as a designated business requiring registration.

Overall, our analysis found that the 14 states differ in response to the following six questions:

1. Is a background check required?
2. Is an exam required?
3. Is education/training required?
4. Is insurance or bonding required?
5. Is continuing education required?
6. Are individuals and businesses both regulated?

LSO did not locate other states that are currently in the process of regulating locksmiths. However, we found that Nebraska and Tennessee repealed their locksmith licensing requirements in 2021. LSO further found that Illinois has a sunset provision currently scheduled to repeal locksmith licensing in 2029 and Florida passed legislation in 2021 to preempt any local regulation of locksmiths, thus deregulating this profession statewide as of July 1, 2025.

Potential Opposition to Licensure:

We identified the following arguments that oppose the licensure of locksmiths:

- Licensure does not stop scammers or nefarious businesses;
- Licensure is a form of protectionism and existing consumer protection laws are effective; and
- National organizations and certifications exist.

Future Considerations:

The committee may wish to allow for public testimony to obtain information to better understand the potential outcomes of the proposed legislation for members of the public, locksmiths, affected state agencies, and other stakeholders. The committee may also wish for the applicant to provide further clarification on specific instances of harm to the public and additional statistics to support the economic claims within the application.

Sunrise Review Process

What is a Sunrise Review?

The National Council of State Legislatures (NCSL) describes the sunrise review process in the occupational licensing context as follows:

> "A sunrise review occurs on the legislative process's front-end before codifying any new rules or requirements in statute. They explore whether there is a need to regulate a currently unregulated occupation or entity….The processes vary among states, but generally, proponents who want to regulate a previously unregulated occupation or profession must compile information covering the potential impacts, costs, and benefits of the new regulation. Proponents then have the chance to deliver their information to legislators, working through a particular legislative committee or office that conducts sunrise reviews in a state, who can review the information before moving forward with any legislative action."

Idaho Sunrise Review Background

Idaho's sunrise review process was established by Senate Bill 1351 of 2020, which established the Occupational Licensing Reform Act and is now codified as Section 67-9408, Idaho Code. The sunrise review process has been available since January 1, 2021. The sunrise review application discussed in this report is the second application submitted to the committee under this statute.

Under Section 67-9408(4), Idaho Code, the Occupational and Professional Licensure Review Committee shall conduct a sunrise review upon request that a lawful profession or occupational group that is not licensed become licensed. A profession or occupation becoming "licensed" means adding a requirement that a person must hold a license, certificate, registration, permit, or other authorization issued by a licensing authority to engage in such profession or occupation.

Purpose of this Report

Section 67-9408(4), Idaho Code, provides that LSO shall submit a report with factual analysis of the sunrise application to the committee, the applicant, and the public. The report shall "verify the contents of an application and submitted information and address any other related factual matters, but shall not contain a recommendation."

COMMITTEE REVIEW TIMELINE



May 1 – Deadline for an applicant to apply for sunrise review.

August 1 – Deadline for LSO to submit a report to the committee with factual analysis regarding the application materials.

October 1 – By this date the committee shall review such application and submitted information and the associated report prepared by LSO, along with any other relevant information, and hold a meeting to consider such application.

November 1 – By this date the committee shall prepare a written recommendation as to whether a requested occupation or profession should be licensed in the manner set forth in the application and shall deliver such recommendation to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives for subsequent delivery to the appropriate germane committee chairpersons.

During the Legislative Session – A sunrise review by the committee shall be required prior to the introduction of any proposed legislation that a lawful profession or occupational group that is not licensed become licensed; provided, however, that a germane committee of the legislature later considering such proposed legislation shall not be bound by the recommendation of the committee.

SUNRISE REVIEW EVALUATION CRITERIA

Section 67-9408(4)(c), Idaho Code, provides the following sunrise review evaluation criteria:

In addition to any other information requested by the committee or staff, the application shall include a copy of the applicant's proposed draft legislation and a description of:

(i) The requestor's identity and relationship to the profession or occupational group;

(ii) Why licensing or other regulation of the profession or occupation is necessary to protect against present, recognizable, and sufficient harm to the health, safety, or welfare of the public to warrant the regulation proposed;

(iii) Why the proposed licensing or other regulation is the least restrictive regulation necessary to protect against present, recognizable, and sufficient harm to the health, safety, or welfare of the public to warrant the regulation proposed;

(iv) Why the public cannot be effectively protected by other means;

(v) Whether the overall cost-effectiveness and economic impact of the proposed regulation, including the direct and indirect costs to consumers, will be outweighed by the benefits of the proposed licensing or other regulation;

(vi) Whether the proposed licensing or other regulation will have an unreasonably negative effect on job creation, job retention, or wages in the state or will place unreasonable restrictions on the ability of individuals who seek to practice or who are practicing a given profession or occupation to continue to practice or to find employment; and

(vii) Any other relevant information.

Current State of Locksmiths in Idaho

The Locksmith Profession

According to the ALOA Security Professionals Association, Inc. (ALOA), locksmiths provide the following services:

- Install locks and other door hardware for homes and businesses.
- Cut duplicate keys and create keys for locks when keys are lost.
- Change/rekey locks.
- Respond to emergency service calls.
- Design, install and repair electronic access control systems and video surveillance systems.
- Consult on lock and hardware selection.
- Install cabinet locks, drawer locks and locker locks.
- Design complex master key systems for businesses, hospitals, schools, apartment buildings and other institutions.
- Install and repair frames, doors, panic bars and other related door hardware.
- Move, install and service safes, including "cracking" safes when a combination is lost or the lock is malfunctioning.
- Recommend and specify safes appropriate for the contents being stored.
- Clean and service locks and hardware of all kinds.
- Provide replacement transponder and alarm fobs for vehicles.

Clients Served

The applicant suggested individuals, businesses, and other organizations are the primary clients. Locksmiths serve those who lose their keys or lock themselves out of a vehicle, building, or safe. Typical work settings include homes and businesses. Locksmiths also install locks, maintain locks, and rekey or change locks when necessary.

Locksmiths Are Not Regulated in Idaho

There is no existing legislation that restricts a person in Idaho from holding themselves out as a locksmith, that permits a person to hold themselves out as a certain type of locksmith or that requires a person to obtain a state-mandated credential in order to practice locksmithing.

Number of Idaho Practitioners

The applicant estimated that there are 100 locksmiths practicing in Idaho. The estimate was derived from businesses registered with the Secretary of State and other online listings. This estimate is consistent with estimates from the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Idaho Department of Labor. The BLS estimated that there were 150 Idaho-based locksmiths in 2025. The Idaho Department of Labor estimated that there are 80 employed locksmiths in the state.

Existing Educational Infrastructure

Programs that prepare locksmiths are primarily administered by private organizations. Typical programs offer online courses, training materials, examinations, and certifications. The institution identified as a potential education provider by the applicant, Folely Belsaw Locksmithing, appears to be located in Wisconsin.

According to the Idaho Department of Labor, the typical entry-level education for a locksmith is a high school diploma or equivalent. LSO was unable to find locksmith apprenticeships in Idaho hosted on the federal Office of Apprenticeship's website.

Professional Organizations

The application and LSO's analysis revealed several state and national professional organizations for locksmiths. The two organizations referenced in this report include:

> **ALOA Security Professionals Association, Inc. (ALOA)**: ALOA is a national organization based in Texas. It was established in 1955 and claims to represent over 10,000 locksmiths and associate members. The organization offers three general and commercial locksmithing certifications: Certified Registered Locksmith (CRL), Certified Professional Locksmith (CPL), and Certified Master Locksmith (CML). ALOA also offers specialized certifications for automotive locksmiths, electronic locksmiths, forensic locksmiths, and more. The number of Idaho members is not publicly disclosed.
>
> **Society of Professional Locksmiths (SOPL)**: SOPL is a national organization based in Arizona, and the applicant estimated that there were fewer than 25 Idaho members. The organization notes that, "It is committed to improving conditions and raising standards through the delivery of education and peer review." Training courses offered include basic locksmithing, automotive, electronics, safe and vault, and more.

Existing Protections For Consumers

Consumers have some protections against the improper practice of locksmithing through certain criminal and civil laws. Consumers may also receive support from Idaho's Office of the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division and organizations such as the Better Business Bureau.

In addition to general criminal code provisions regarding crimes such as breaking and entering and theft, Title 18 of Idaho Code provides some protections more specific to the improper practice of locksmithing that may apply. These provisions include:

- Section 18-3613, Idaho Code, pertains to the simulation of any key that might be used to open any lock belonging to any switch or car owned by any common carrier and provides for penalties.
- Section 18-1406, Idaho Code, makes it a misdemeanor to be in possession of burglarious instruments.
- Section 18-7001, Idaho Code, pertains to malicious injury to property and provides for penalties.

Regarding civil matters, the courts have generally established a duty of care framework as locksmiths are expected to perform work in a skillful and workmanlike manner. Violators of this standard or duty may be held liable for any damages.

Beyond criminal and civil cases, consumers can file complaints with the Idaho Consumer Protection Division or private organizations such as the Better Business Bureau against locksmith businesses. Consumers may also rely on online reviews from websites like Google, Yelp, or Angie's List for information about locksmiths.

Application Request and Profession Scope

Applicant Information

James O'Bryant, the owner of OBryant Locksmith, Inc. submitted this application. The applicant is based in Nampa, Idaho.

Request for Licensure of Locksmiths

The applicant requests licensure for locksmiths; however, detailed draft legislation has not been provided. The applicant noted that they were also interested in initiating a discussion (about locksmith regulation).

In the section titled "Type of Proposed Regulation," the applicant did not distinguish between licensure, certification, or registration. Instead, the applicant emphasized two main desired qualifications in the application:

1. Background checks; and
2. Locksmith training certification.

LSO has interpreted this to mean that the applicant may be interested in regulation other than licensure, such as certification or registration. LSO has also interpreted this to mean that the applicant may be interested in a practice act that incorporates some of or all the requirements found in the practice acts of other states. Additional requirements found in other states for the committee and the applicant to consider include:

- Experience or education requirements;
- Passing an examination;
- Insurance requirements; and
- Continuing education.

The section "National Legislative Landscape and Requirements for Regulation" on page 11 and Appendices 1 and 2 include more information regarding the potential requirements for regulation.

Locksmiths and the Proposed Professional Scope

As shown in Appendices 1 and 2, the practice acts of some states include additional professions beyond locksmithing. These professions may include alarm companies, CCTV, private investigators, and more. However, the applicant appears to be solely interested in regulation for locksmiths.

As mentioned, the applicant has not provided detailed draft legislation to delineate the scope of practice. The applicant noted the following activities that could constitute the beginnings of a professional scope:

- Residential Lockouts, Commercial Lockouts, Vehicle Lockouts, Storage Unit Lockouts;
- Residential and Commercial Rekeying;
- Lock Installation/Repair/Replacement;
- Residential and Commercial Key Cutting/Duplicating and Replacements;
- Vehicle Key Cutting/Programming/Duplicating and Replacements; and
- Personal Safe Opening and Reprogramming.

The applicant further noted that automotive dealerships cut and program vehicle keys. This may provide a starting point for any exemptions from licensure.

Finally, as also shown in Appendices 1 and 2, other states that regulate locksmiths often distinguish between business regulation and individual regulation. Proposed legislation may include provisions for locksmith businesses and individuals.

Proposed Regulatory Body and Structure

The application did not contain details regarding the preferred placement of locksmiths within an existing regulatory board or whether the creation of a new regulatory board is desired. The Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses is available to consult regarding the designation or creation of a regulatory board or body and any associated costs to the state if the committee wishes. More limited regulation, such as registration, would not require a board but could include paying an application fee and registering with a state entity.

National Legislative Landscape and Regulation Requirements

The application suggested that 15 states regulate locksmiths in some capacity. LSO's research indicated that there were 14 states. Two of the states the application noted, Nebraska and Tennessee, repealed their practice acts in 2021 as discussed on page 13. LSO also found a designated form of business registration to be required in Washington. The 14 states include: Alabama, Connecticut, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Virginia, and Washington.

Because the application did not include draft legislation, LSO examined the prominent features or regulation requirements in other states.

Appendix 1 ranks other states by their regulatory burden based on whether the following six requirements are present:

1. Background checks;
2. Examinations;
3. Education or training;
4. Insurance or bonding;
5. Continuing education; and
6. Individual and business regulation.

Appendix 2 provides additional detailed information for each state's licensing requirements.

All 14 states that regulate locksmiths require all practitioners of the profession to be credentialed at the state minimum level. When reviewing other states, we found the level of regulation generally increases from registration, which may not include anything beyond paying the associated fees, to licensure, which may include all six requirements described on page 11. Ultimately, the committee could consider any combination of licensure, certification, permits, or registration for individuals and businesses engaged in locksmithing if it is desired.

Legislative Trends in Other States

As part of this review, LSO analyzed trends in legislation introduced and passed in other states regarding the regulation of locksmiths. LSO found legislation introduced to both increase and decrease regulation for locksmiths.

Efforts to Increase Regulation

LSO's analysis found the following bills in other states that sought to regulate locksmiths; however, they did not become law.

Georgia HB 538 (2011): This bill sought to create a state board of locksmiths and provide for the licensing and registration of locksmiths. The bill did not advance past the second reading.

Washington SB 5177 (2011): This bill sought to require a license from the Department of Licensing in order to perform locksmith services for compensation. The bill would have provided for training requirements, passage of an examination, and other more stringent requirements than what currently exists in Washington. The bill did not advance from committee.

Florida HB 1311 (2025): This bill sought to require licensure for locksmith services, require background screening, establish qualifications and training requirements, and more. The bill did not advance from committee.

Efforts to Reduce Regulation

LSO's analysis found the following bills passed in other states which sought to deregulate locksmiths.

The Tennessee General Assembly passed SB 0012, effective 2021, which repealed the state's Locksmith Licensing Act of 2006. Prior to 2021, the state required locksmiths to be registered, pass a background check, pass an examination, and hold insurance.

Similarly, the Nebraska Legislature passed LB 169, effective 2021, which repealed locksmith registration requirements. Prior to the bill, Nebraska required locksmiths to obtain a registration certificate from the County Clerk in the county in which their business is located. The certificate required a $5 fee, name, SSN, brief criminal history, and name and address of three references. Failure to comply was a Class IV misdemeanor.

Florida passed HB 735, effective 2025, to preempt any local government regulation of professions including locksmiths, thus deregulating this profession statewide as of July 1, 2025.

Other Relevant Legislation

Pursuant to the Regulatory Sunset Act found in Illinois Compiled Statutes, (5 ILCS 80/4.39), the practice act that regulates locksmiths is set to expire and be repealed on January 1, 2029. The Illinois Governor's Office of Management and Budget conducted a review of the board in 2023 for the then-scheduled 2024 expiration and suggested that the state continue to regulate the profession. The same agency may conduct another sunset review prior to the January 1, 2029, expiration date. Ultimately, the expiration of the practice act could be affected by legislative action in the future.

Suggested Harm to the Public if the Profession is Not Regulated

Why licensure is Necessary to protect against Harm

The applicant has emphasized that locksmiths have unique access to their clients' homes, businesses, vehicles, and secure facilities and that this access could be exploited and harmful without proper regulation. The applicant further claims that the fact that services are often rendered during emergencies or vulnerable situations exacerbates this potential. Table 1 displays the applicant's suggested potential physical, emotional, and financial harms that could result from a locksmith's failure to provide adequate service.

Table 1: Potential Harms to the Public as Identified by the Applicant

Physical Harm	Emotional Harm	Financial Harm
• Unsafe installations • Delayed emergency access • Criminal intent or violent crime	• Violations of privacy • Feelings of anxiety, fear, and betrayal • Trauma after break-ins	• Scam pricing • Property damage • Security breaches • Theft or fraud

The applicant has added that, without regulation, there is a lack of accountability for locksmiths, and "there is no formal mechanism to track complaints, enforce ethical standards, or remove bad actors from the profession."

Instances of Harm

LSO did not receive information in the application regarding Idaho-specific or national instances of harm that have occurred due to the lack of regulation of locksmiths in this state. However, in an effort to locate specific instances of harm, LSO researched media publications and other states.

Media outlets across the country have produced segments on uncovering fraudulent locksmiths or locksmithing scams. Government agencies in other states have also issued press releases advising consumers to be diligent when choosing a locksmith. In July 2026, the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection warned residents of the state about bait-and-switch pricing by locksmiths. The Connecticut press release also stated that the department received 12 complaints regarding locksmith businesses in the past five years, the majority of which were related to poor quality of service or rude behavior.

Another way to examine the risk of harm to the public is to look at disciplinary actions by regulatory bodies in other states that currently regulate locksmiths. Of the 14 states that regulate locksmiths, Alabama, New Jersey, North Carolina, Texas, and Illinois disclose disciplinary actions undertaken by the bodies that regulate the profession online. Although Illinois discloses disciplinary actions, LSO was unable to separate the actions from those taken against other security professionals, and therefore could not examine the results. Similarly, the Alabama board has not updated its disciplinary actions since 2023.

Appendix 3 includes an analysis of the disciplinary actions taken against locksmiths from 2024 through 2026 by the remaining three state regulatory bodies. Ultimately, New Jersey's board took disciplinary action 13 times, North Carolina's board nine times, and Texas' board 60 times. The 82 total disciplinary actions contained at least 89 reported violations.

Of the 89 violations, 15 were related to harmful conduct or violations of the standards of conduct while the remaining 74 were for things such as expired licenses, unlicensed individuals, failure to complete continuing education, or advertising offenses. It should be noted that this analysis does not necessarily include all complaints received by these bodies, only completed disciplinary actions. Moreover, a low number of disciplinary actions may also suggest that the regulatory bodies are working as intended.

Suggested Economic Impacts of Licensure

The application suggests that the overall economic impact of licensure will be beneficial to locksmiths and consumers. The applicant indicates that the supply of locksmiths would initially decrease and stabilize, wages would remain the same or increase, and consumers would benefit from decreased prices. However, the application does not contain numerical estimates for jobs created, jobs retained, or dollar figures for wages or the cost of services. The rationale for these suggestions are included below.

To support the claim of a potential initial decrease leading to a stabilization of locksmiths, the applicant's responses include:

- "The total number of practitioners may initially decline as unqualified individuals exit the field. However, this will be a strategic contraction, removing those who pose a risk to public safety. Over time, the profession will stabilize and grow with qualified entrants who meet the standards. Creating a healthier, more sustainable workforce."

To support the claim that wages would remain the same or increase, the applicant's responses include:

- "Regulation will elevate the profession, encouraging continued education, ethical standards, and consumer trust; ultimately leading to increased demand for certified professionals."

- "Legitimate locksmiths [pay inflated advertising costs] and must spend $1,000–$2,000 per month on aggressive digital marketing just to compete with deceptive companies that flood search engines with fake listings…With background checks and licensing requirements in place, fraudulent companies will be removed from the market, reducing advertising wars and allowing legitimate businesses to scale back marketing spend."

- "Without regulation, locksmiths face reputation damage. The presence of untrained or criminally inclined operators erodes public trust, forcing ethical businesses to invest more in branding, insurance, and customer reassurance…With regulation, businesses will no longer need to overinvest in damage control, legal protections, or emergency response systems to counteract scam-related fallout."

To support the claim that consumers would benefit from decreased prices, the applicant's responses include:

- "Scam locksmith companies often charge 2–3x standard rates, especially during emergency lockouts, exploiting vulnerable situations with no accountability."

- "With fewer bad actors inflating prices, and legitimate locksmiths able to operate more efficiently, service costs will stabilize or decrease, especially for routine jobs like residential lockouts or rekeying."

Absent specific numeric estimates for economic impacts, a competing narrative of the broad economic effects of occupational licensure may be useful for the committee to consider. The Institute for Justice, a nonprofit with the self-proclaimed mission to "end widespread abuses of government power and secure the constitutional rights that allow all Americans to pursue their dreams," suggested the following economic impacts of occupational licensure:

> "Licensing likely leads to such economic losses because it restricts competition, generating economic returns to licensees above what they would make absent licensing. These economic returns are costs borne by consumers, likely through higher prices, and the wider economy, through fewer jobs and reduced economic activity."

Opposition to the Licensure of Locksmiths

LSO provides the following views opposing licensure of locksmiths that the committee may wish to consider. LSO does not give weight to any arguments for or against the application. The arguments include:

1. Licensure does not stop scammers or nefarious businesses;
2. Licensure is a form of protectionism and existing consumer protection laws are effective; and
3. National organizations and certifications exist.

The three arguments are drawn from blog posts on the SOPL website "Ode to Licensing Hypocrisy," "Ode to Licensing Arrogance," and "Ode to Locksmith Licensing Failure." The blogs were posted in 2017 and 2018. The society is mentioned in the application as a resource and the posts are written by the then-managing director of the society.

In the posts, the author attempts to use the following as justification for these claims:

1. Instances of misconduct occur in states that have locksmith practice acts;
2. There exists a perceived desire of some locksmiths to keep individuals out of the profession; and
3. The presence of organizations like SOPL can set high standards beyond the minimums set by licensure.

Conclusion

This report does not make a recommendation to the committee but is intended to help inform the committee regarding the subject matter of the application and the contents of the application.

Pursuant to LSO's review, locksmiths are not currently subject to any licensure requirements in Idaho. The applicant has not provided draft legislation; however, this analysis provides licensing requirements from the 14 other states that regulate locksmiths for the committee to consider if it so wishes. If some form of regulation is desired, Appendices 1 and 2 may help the committee determine the least restrictive level of regulation necessary.

The applicant's materials describe an intent to protect the public from harm. The applicant describes circumstances that may arise given the improper practice of locksmithing and, that may lead to physical, emotional and financial harm.

Similarly, the applicant's materials assert a positive economic impact from the licensure of locksmiths. The applicant describes hypothetical increases in wages for licensed locksmiths and lower prices for consumers.

On the national level, LSO has found bills introduced in other states that sought to regulate the profession, but the only successful pieces of legislation have been the repeal of the practice acts in Nebraska and Tennessee in 2021 and the preemption of local licensing bodies in Florida in that same year.

Considerations for Future Meetings

- The committee may wish to allow for public testimony to obtain information to better understand the potential outcomes of any proposed legislation for members of the public, locksmiths, affected state agencies, and other stakeholders.

- While not strictly required by the application, the committee may wish for the applicant to provide any complaints, lawsuits, or cases of harm that have occurred in Idaho or throughout the nation because of the inadequate practice of locksmiths.

- The committee may wish to ask why the applicant noted that the current lack of regulation of this group makes its practitioners ineligible for payments and grants they would otherwise be eligible to receive. What payments or grants is the applicant referring to?

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Other States Ranked by Regulatory Burden

Appendix 2: Locksmith Licensing Requirements in Other States

Appendix 3: Disciplinary Actions in Other States by Violation from 2024 through 2026

Appendix 1: Other States Ranked by Regulatory Burden

States' locksmithing requirements ranked least to most regulated based on six factors: background check, exam, education/training, insurance, continuing education, and whether both individual and business credentials are required (1 point each, max 6). Source: state statutes, administrative rules, and regulatory websites.

State	Required Credential Type	Score	Background Check	Exam Required	Education / Training	Insurance Required	Continuing Education	Individual and Business Both Regulated
Washington	Registration (Business License)	0/6	–	–	–	–	–	–
Connecticut	Registration	1/6	✓	–	–	–	–	–
Nevada[1]	Permit	1/6	✓	–	–	–	–	–
California	Licensure	2/6	✓	–	–	–	–	✓
Maryland	Licensure	3/6	✓	–	–	✓	–	✓
Oregon	Certification	3/6	✓	✓	–	–	–	✓
North Carolina	Licensure	3/6	✓	✓	–	–	✓	–
Oklahoma	Licensure	4/6	✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓
Illinois	Licensure	5/6	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓
Virginia	Licensure	5/6	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓
New Jersey	Licensure	6/6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Alabama	Licensure	6/6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Louisiana	Licensure	6/6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Texas	Licensure	6/6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

[1] Nevada delegates all licensing authority to county sheriffs; the state sets no uniform eligibility criteria beyond county ordinance.

Appendix 2: Locksmith Licensing Requirements in Other States

As of 2026, 14 states regulate the locksmith profession through licensure, registration, permits, or certification. The chart below identifies the governing agencies, any applicable statutes or rules, and whether the enabling practice acts include professions other than locksmiths. It further identifies the requirements for: individual and business regulation, insurance, background checks, education and training, examinations, fees, exemptions to licensure, and continuing education. Source materials include state statutes, administrative rules, and regulatory agency websites.

Legend: LICENSURE REGISTRATION CERTIFICATION PERMIT

State	Type	Governing Agency	Statutory and Rules Citations	Practice Act More than Just Locksmiths?	Individual or Business Regulated?	Insurance/ Bonding Required?	Background Check?	Experience and/or Education Requirement	Exam?	Fees	Exemptions to Practice Act	Continuing Education
Alabama	**Licensure**	Electronic Security Board of Licensure (AESBL).	Code of Alabama, § 34-1A et. seq. Ala. Admin. Code: 304-X-1- et. al.	Yes, including alarm systems and others.	Both. Businesses are licensed. Employees are registered.	Yes, $250,000 general liability insurance.	Yes.	Board-approved locksmith certification class required for qualifying agent.	Yes, board-approved exam, ALOA	Fees set by Ala. Admin. Code 304-X-1--.04.	Exemptions provided in Code of Alabama, § 34-1A-6.	Typically eight hours per year. 16 hours per cycle.
California	**Licensure**	Bureau of Security & Investigative Services (BSIS).	Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 6980 through 6981. Cal. Code of Regulations: 16 CCR 600 through 646.	No, just locksmiths. Some exceptions where contractor license is necessary.	Both.	None identified for locksmiths. However, contractors are required.	Yes.	None identified.	None identified.	Fees set by Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 6980.79.	Exemptions provided in Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 6980.12.	None identified.
Connecticut	**Registration**	Department of Consumer Protection.	Conn. Gen. Stat. § 20-691 et. seq. (Ch. 400p), Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies: 12-407(2)(i)(T)-1.	No, just locksmiths.	Individual only.	None identified.	Yes.	None identified.	None identified.	Fees set by Conn. Gen. Stat. § 20-691(b)(2).	Exemptions provided in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 20-691(5).	None identified.
Illinois	**Licensure**	Department of Financial & Professional Regulation (IDFPR).	225 ILCS 447 et. seq. Ill. Adm. Code 1240.300 et. seq. and 1240.500 et. seq.	Yes, Including private detectives, private alarms, private security, fingerprint vendors.	Both.	Yes, $1,000,000 general liability insurance.	Yes.	20 hours training within 30 days of employment.	Yes, board-approved exam, ALOA. Exam must be taken every three years.	Fees set by Ill. Adm. Code 1240.570.	Exemptions provided in 225 ILCS 447/30-5.	None identified.

State	Type	Governing Agency	Statutory and Rules Citations	Practice Act More than Just Locksmiths?	Individual or Business Regulated?	Insurance/ Bonding Required?	Background Check?	Experience and/or Education Requirement	Exam?	Fees	Exemptions to Practice Act	Continuing Education
Louisiana	**Licensure**	Office of the State Fire Marshal.	La. R.S. 40:1664.1 et seq. LAC 55:V.3213, 55:V.3215.	Yes, including CCTV.	Both.	Yes, $500,000 general liability insurance and workers' comp.	Yes.	Qualifiers must complete courses provided by the fire marshal. Qualifiers must also have one of the applicable certifications or endorsements.	Yes, board-approved exam, ALOA	Fees set by La. R.S. 40:1664.9.	Exemptions provided in La. R.S. 40:1664.5.	Typically eight hours per year. 24 hours per cycle.
Maryland	**Licensure**	Division of Occupational Professional Licensing.	Md. Business Regulation Code Ann. §§ 12.5-101 et. seq. Code of Maryland Regulations 9.40. et. seq.	No, just locksmiths.	Both. Businesses are licensed. Employees are registered.	Yes, $300,000 general liability insurance.	Yes.	None identified.	None identified.	Fees set by Code of Maryland Regulations 9.40.02.	Exemptions provided in Md. Business Regulation Code Ann. §§ 12.5-103.	None identified.
Nevada	**Permit**	County Sheriff (county-level permit).	Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 655.010 et seq.,	No, just locksmiths.	Individual only.	None identified.	Yes.	None identified.	None identified.	Fees set by county ordinance.	None identified.	None identified.
New Jersey	**Licensure**	Division of Consumer Affairs.	N.J. Stat. §§ 45:5A-23, et. seq. N.J.A.C. 13:31A et. seq.	Yes, includes burglar alarm, fire alarm businesses, electronic security systems, and locksmithing.	Both.	Yes, $500,000 general liability insurance and surety bond of $10,000.	Yes.	3 years of practical experience (5,040 hourrs) or 2-year approved apprenticeship.	Yes, board-approved exam.	Fees set by N.J.A.C. 13:31A-1.4.	Exemptions provided in N.J. Stat. §§ 45:5A-29.	Typically eight hours per year. 24 hours per cycle.
North Carolina	**Licensure**	Locksmith Licensing Board.	N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 74F et. al. 21 N.C.A.C. 29 et. al.	No, just locksmiths.	Individual only.	None identified.	Yes.	None identified.	Yes, board-approved exam.	Fees set by N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 74F-9.	Exemptions in G.S. 74F-16.	Typically, 16 hours per 3-year cycle.
Oklahoma	**Licensure**	Department of Labor.	59 Okl. St. § 1800.1 et. seq. O.A.C. §§ 380:75 et. seq.	Yes, includes alarm, locksmith, and fire sprinkler industry.	Both.	None identified.	Yes.	Experience requirement for managers.	Yes, board-approved exam for managers and technicians.	Fees set by O.A.C. §§ 380:75-3-2.	Exemptions in O.A.C §§ 380:75-3-7.	None identified.

State	Type	Governing Agency	Statutory and Rules Citations	Practice Act More than Just Locksmiths?	Individual or Business Regulated?	Insurance/ Bonding Required?	Background Check?	Experience and/or Education Requirement	Exam?	Fees	Exemptions to Practice Act	Continuing Education
Oregon	**Certification**	Construction Contractors Board (CCB).	ORS §§ 701.480 et. seq. OAR 812-030 et. seq.	No, just locksmiths. However, contractor license is necessary for certification.	Both, given the need for a contractor license.	None identified.	Yes.	None identified.	Yes, board-approved exam.	Fees set by OAR 812-030-0250.	Exemptions provided in ORS 701.490.	None identified.
Texas	**Licensure**	Department of Public Safety, Private Security Bureau.	Tex. Occ. Code §§ 1702 et. seq. 37 TAC § 35. et. seq.	Yes, including private security.	Both.	Yes, $200,000 general liability insurance.	Yes.	2 years of experience OR 48-hour basic and 600-hour fundamentals course.	Yes, board-approved Qualified Managers exam.	Fees set by 37 TAC § 35. 131(a).	Exemptions provided in 1702.240 and 1702.2227.	Typically eight hours per year. 16 hours per cycle.
Virginia	**Licensure**	Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS).	Va. Code Ann. §§ 9.1-138 et. seq. 6 VAC 20-172 and 6 VAC 20-174 et. al.	Yes, including alarm systems and others.	Both. Businesses are licensed. Employees are registered.	Yes, $1,000,000 general liability insurance.	Yes.	18 hours of compulsory entry-level training.	Yes, board-approved exam.	Fees set by 6 VAC 20-172-20.	Exemptions provided in Va. Code Ann. §§ 9.1-140.	None identified.
Washington	**Registration (Business License)**	None specified.	Rev. Code Wash. (ARCW) § 19.355. et. seq.	No, just locksmiths.	Business only.	None identified.	None identified.	None identified.	None identified.	Fees set as standard state business license.	Exemptions provided in §19.355.020.	None identified.

Notes

- Nebraska and Tennessee repealed their locksmith licensing requirements in 2021.
- Illinois has a sunset provision currently scheduled to repeal locksmith licensing in 2029.
- Maryland licenses the business entity rather than individual technicians. Employees are authorized to work under the business license but must pass a background check and be registered.
- Nevada delegates all licensing authority to county sheriffs; the state sets no uniform eligibility criteria beyond county ordinance.
- Oregon uses the term "certification" (not licensure); credential issued by the Construction Contractors Board.
- Washington does not impose a traditional registration; instead it requires primary locksmith businesses to display their state business license number on websites and advertising.

Appendix 3: Disciplinary Actions in Other States by Violation from 2024 through 2026

State and Year	Total Disciplinary Actions	Violation(s) Specified								
		Misconduct or Standards of Conduct Violation	Expired License	Unlicensed	Failure to Complete Continuing Education Requirements	Other Administrative Error	Offense Outside of Locksmithing	Failure to Cooperate with Investigation	Failure to Oversee Business or Maintain Records	Advertising Offense
New Jersey										
2026	**3**	**-**	**2**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1**	**-**	**-**
2025	**3**	**-**	**-**	**2**	**-**	**1**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
2024	**7**	**-**	**4**	**-**	**2**	**1**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
North Carolina										
2026	**2**	**2**	**-**	**1**	**-**	**1**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
2025	**4**	**-**	**-**	**3**	**-**	**1**	**2**	**-**	**-**	**-**
2024	**3**	**2**	**-**	**1**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Texas										
2026	**16**	**-**	**2**	**1**	**8**	**-**	**-**	**5**	**1**	**-**
2025	**26**	**1**	**-**	**1**	**13**	**2**	**-**	**3**	**8**	**1**
2024	**18**	**10**	**-**	**-**	**5**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1**	**4**
TOTAL	**82**	**15**	**8**	**9**	**28**	**6**	**2**	**9**	**10**	**5**

Source : LSO analysis of disciplinary actions posted online by locksmith licensing bodies in New Jersey, North Carolina, and Texas.

Notes:

1. The violation categories and coding decisions reflect the analyst's judgment, not necessarily the exact wording of the disciplinary action(s).
2. Disciplinary actions contained multiple violations within one action in certain instances.
3. Texas disciplinary actions are for locksmith businesses only. Individual locksmiths were not distinguished from other professions in the governing body's reports.
4. Texas reports from 2024 specified a "Standards of Conduct" violation, and more detail was not provided.

1. Are you aware of any events or trends that suggest crime related to locksmiths is increasing or decreasing?
    a. If yes, what trends exist?

2. To the best of your knowledge, do you believe current laws and regulations are sufficient to protect the public against the improper practice of locksmithing?
    a. If no, please elaborate and indicate if you believe increased regulation would help.

3. Is there anything else you believe would be helpful information regarding locksmiths for the committee and the Legislature to consider?

Answers:

1. We are unaware of events and/or trends that are suggesting locksmith crimes are neither increasing or decreasing.
2. We believe that existing laws and regulations are sufficient and are not requesting changes.
3. We have no additional information or comments to add at this time. The above comments are only related to Sheriffs, Chiefs may have different or additional comments.

Jeff A. Lavey
Executive Director

Idaho Sheriffs' Association 3100 S Vista Ave Ste. 203 Boise ID 83705
208-287-0001

Protecting Idaho Communities by Promoting the Office of Sheriff Since 1962.

1. Are you aware of any events or trends that suggest crime related to locksmiths is increasing or decreasing?
    a. If yes, what trends exist?

2. To the best of your knowledge, do you believe current laws and regulations are sufficient to protect the public against the improper practice of locksmithing?
    a. If no, please elaborate and indicate if you believe increased regulation would help.

3. Is there anything else you believe would be helpful information regarding locksmiths for the committee and the Legislature to consider?

1- we haven't seen a trend of crime particularly related to locksmithing any more than any other profession (or lack of a profession by suspects).

2- regulations of licensing as a business doesn't often fall within law enforcement duties, it's pretty rare I would say and more civil in nature. So it's hard to say whether or not more regulation or licensing would help in preventing crime by locksmiths or as deterrent (threat of losing license to practice locksmithing). I would say if one couldn't be licensed as a locksmith as a result of using those skills to commit crime - it is likely a very small deterrent; they would already have knowledge and skills to use if they chose to continue committing crime. Criminal consequences already in place for someone convicted in a crime probably matter much more than the threat of losing their locksmith license - if there is a willingness there is a way around that part of it for the criminal in our experience.

3- In the spirit of keeping appropriate things/professions licensed for various reasons we would see no reason to do more than what may already be required (especially because that part of it very rarely falls in our LE duties).

Thanks for reaching out to us, always happy to help with feedback and be a resource.

Be safe!

Bryan Lovell
President, Idaho FOP
BryanLFOP@gmail.com
208-317-2787