



2026

Sunrise Application Report: Locksmiths

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LSO

Legislative Services Office





Legislative Services Office Sunrise Application Report: Locksmiths

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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:

REDACTED (“the applicant”) submitted this application for sunrise review (“the application”). REDACTED 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

REDACTED submitted this application. The applicant is based in REDACTED.

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 hours) 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

		Violation(s) Specified								
State and Year	Total Disciplinary Actions	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.