



Modernizing Pharmacist Licensure in Illinois

HB4154 - Representative Natalie Manley

HB4154 presents an opportunity to **permanently remove the MPJE** (Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination) as a licensure requirement in Illinois and **rely on the NAPLEX** (North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination) as the sole entry-level competency exam, consistent with a growing number of states.^{1,4}

The NAPLEX would remain required and assesses whether a pharmacy graduate possesses the knowledge and skills necessary to practice pharmacy safely at entry level.⁴ Illinois would retain full authority over enforcement, discipline, and regulatory oversight.¹

Competency Is Preserved

- The NAPLEX remains in place as the national exam measuring pharmacist readiness to practice safely.⁴
- Illinois maintains regulatory oversight through IDFPR and the Board of Pharmacy.¹
- Public protection does not depend on a second law examination.

Permanent reform provides stability and clarity for applicants and employers.

Multiple Jurisdictions Already License Without a Law Exam

According to the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP), the following jurisdictions do not require a jurisprudence examination: Alaska, Idaho, Michigan, Vermont, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.⁴

Illinois would be aligning with an established national movement.

Idaho: Real-World Evidence, No Safety Concerns

A peer-reviewed evaluation of Idaho's decision to eliminate the jurisprudence examination concluded:

"Idaho eliminated the examination in 2018, and no evidence demonstrating a public safety impact has yet materialized."² After several years of implementation, no measurable public safety decline has been identified.²

Michigan Has Permanently Removed the MPJE

In 2024, Michigan eliminated the MPJE requirement for pharmacist licensure through administrative rulemaking.^{3,6}

Indiana Is Advancing the Same Reform

Indiana SB 293, removing the law examination requirement for pharmacists, passed the Indiana Senate and continues through the legislative process.⁵

Public Safety Remains Strong

Illinois pharmacists will still:

- Pass the national NAPLEX competency examination
- Graduate from accredited pharmacy programs
- Complete continuing education
- Be subject to discipline and oversight
- Practice within employer compliance systems

Ongoing regulatory enforcement, not a one-time law examination, protects patients.

Illinois can permanently remove the MPJE requirement while maintaining competency standards and public safety.

Vote YES for HB4154!

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References:

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3. Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. (2024, February 29). *Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) report – Removal of MPJE requirement for pharmacist licensure*. https://ars.apps.lara.state.mi.us/Transaction/DownloadFile?EffectiveDate=2%2F29%2F2024&FileName=JCARRreportForm_2022-8_LR.pdf&FileType=JCARRreport&ReturnHTML=True&TransactionID=1367
4. National Association of Boards of Pharmacy. (n.d.). *Which states require the MPJE or UMPJE?* <https://nabp.pharmacy/help/which-states-require-the-mpje/>
5. The Indiana Lawyer. (2026, January 30). *Bill that would remove law exam requirement for pharmacists passed by Indiana Senate*. <https://www.theindianalawyer.com/articles/bill-that-would-remove-law-exam-requirement-for-pharmacists-passed-by-indiana-senate>
6. Wayne State University, Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. (2024, March 6). *MPJE removed as requirement for pharmacist licensure in Michigan*. <https://applebaum.wayne.edu/news/mpje-removed-as-requirement-for-pharmacist-licensure-in-michigan-61779>

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