



The Charleston Regional
Chamber of Commerce

ISSUE: PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE EFFICIENCY

BACKGROUND

In the United States, state governments have jurisdiction for issuing most professional licenses to individuals and corporations.

Fields that are regulated and licensed vary among individual states. Among regulated fields are health care professionals (medical doctors, nurses); psychologists; lawyers; teachers; surveyors; engineers; social workers; occupational therapists; architects; tradesmen (plumbers, electricians); and certain service industry workers (bartenders, massage therapists, barbers). The fundamental purpose of licensure and registration is to protect the public.

The following are the Licensure Boards from West Virginia Code:

1. Board of Architects
2. Board of Accountancy
3. Board of Examiners for Acupuncture
4. Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists
5. Board of Chiropractic
6. Board of Examiners in Counseling
7. Board of Dentists and Dental Hygienists Examiners
8. Board of Landscape Architects
9. Professional Fire Fighters Certification Board
10. Board of Licensed Dietitians
11. Board of Embalmers & Funeral Directors
12. Board of Hearing Aid Dealers
13. Board of Registration for Professional Engineers
14. State Board of Examiners of Land Surveyors
15. Massage Therapy Licensing Board
16. Board of Medicine
17. Board of Examiners for Licensed Practical Nurses
18. Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses
19. Nursing Home Administrators Licensing Board
20. Board of Occupational Therapy
21. Board of Optometry
22. Board of Osteopathy
23. Board of Pharmacy
24. Board of Physical Therapy
25. Board of Examiners of Psychologists

26. Board of Registration for Sanitarians
27. Board of Examiners for Radiologic Technology
28. Real Estate Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board
29. Board of Respiratory Care
30. Board of Social Work Examiners
31. Board of Examiners for Speech Language Pathology and Audiology
32. Board of Veterinary Medicine
33. Board of Foresters

Over time, licensing boards can become “anti-competitive” in their actions which can prevent or raise barriers to new entrants into the profession or industry, and licensing procedures can raise costs for services that entrepreneurs and their employees need.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Creating a more efficient and effective licensure process for many professions in West Virginia could generate budgetary savings for the State of West Virginia.
- Examine the professions that require a license and replace licensing with a less onerous form of regulation where public health is not seriously threatened.
- Encourage the legislative and executive branches to execute on WV Code §30-1-15. Office of executive secretary of the health profession licensing boards; appointment of executive secretary; creating a more efficient and effective licensure entity for health related professions.
- Encourage utilization of §30-1-19. Combining board staff functions to create a more effective and efficient licensing procedures for licensing boards not covered in §30-1-15.