



**Senate Bill 255: Occupational Licensing
Written Testimony
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November 27, 2018**

Chair Roegner and members of the Ohio House Federalism & Interstate Relations Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 255 (SB 255) on behalf of our members. The Greater Cleveland Partnership (GCP) is the largest Chamber of Commerce in the country and represents the most comprehensive small, middle market, and large businesses in the state with more than 10,000 business members.

SB 255, as you know, would require the legislature to review occupational licensing boards regarding their sunset and the non-partisan Legislative Service Commission could perform assessments of occupational licensing bills and state regulation of occupations.

Many in the Northeast Ohio business community believe it is past time for a full review of the number of occupational licensing agencies Ohio has in place and the requirements many professions are mandated to meet to acquire and maintain a license. Reforming Ohio's licensing process is a commendable goal our members support.

Licensing in Ohio has resulted in business people spending hundreds, in some cases, thousands of dollars to earn a license to begin their career. This is damaging – particularly for small businesses – for entry into the market and competition.

GCP specifically supports initiatives that would:

- Require all occupational licensing boards to be renewed regularly, in a public forum, before the legislature.
- Create a process for concluding the business and operation of an expired board and allows any person to engage in an occupation if the board that licensed that occupation has expired.
- Streamline paperwork, consolidate forms and harmonize data and due dates.

Few will argue with the fact that the licensing of definitive industries is imperative, but laborious, unnecessary impediments to employment that make it harder for qualified, skilled workers to find a job should be inspected.

Requiring the inspection of occupational licensing practices in Ohio makes for good public policy and we urge swift passage of the bill. GCP welcomes the opportunity to harness our



members' experience by working with the appropriate parties on the implementation of this initiative.