



CHAPTER

OHIO BUILDING OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION



PO BOX 1506, COLUMBUS OH 43216-1506
www.oboa.org

January 26, 2022

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The Honorable Scott Wiggam
Chair, House State & Local Government Committee
77 High St Fl 13
Columbus OH 43215-6108
Via Jordan Leatherwood e-mail jordan.leatherwood@ohiohouse.gov

SUBJECT: HB 203, Require Occupational License if Experienced in Another State, Opposition Testimony

1. Introduction. Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee. Thank you for allowing me to submit this Opposition Testimony on House Bill 203 (HB 203). Ohio Building Officials' Association (OBOA) is a professional organization consisting of over 1,000 members most of whom administer construction and fire rules. Our membership includes private sector architects, professional engineers, other construction designers, and construction contractors. Our members include employees and officials in State government. However, my testimony has been neither specifically coordinated nor endorsed by any State government employee or official.

2. HB 203. HB 203 enacts Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 4796 which directs Ohio state level and political subdivision (county, city, township, and local health district) licensing authorities to issue a license or government certification generally to persons holding an out-of-state occupational license without regard to whether the non-Ohio state grants similar licensing procedures in their state to persons holding an Ohio license/certification. HB 203 at Line:

- a. 7467 modifies ORC 3737.83(C) pointing to proposed ORC 4796 regarding certification of fire protection equipment installers
- b. 8649 enacts ORC 3781.10(E)(14) pointing to proposed ORC 4796 regarding the certification of persons administering the State's construction rules.
- c. 8926 enacts ORC 3781.102(J) pointing to proposed ORC 4796 regarding boards of county commissioners licensing of electrical contractors; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) contractors; refrigeration contractors; hydronics contractors; and plumbing contractors.
- d. 8976 enacts ORC 3781.105(G) regarding the certification of fire protection system designers.

- e. 20671 enacts ORC 4765.55(G) pointing to proposed ORC 4796 regarding certification of fire safety inspectors.
 - f. 21216 enacts ORC 4781.07(D) pointing to proposed ORC 4796 regarding certification of manufactured home installation inspectors.
3. Discussion/OBOA Position. Sponsor testimony shows the intent is to remove the undesirable effects of deterring persons qualified to perform professions/occupations outside Ohio from bringing their talent to Ohio. Sponsor testimony also states HB 203 increases access to these professional/occupational services by Ohio's public. However, OBOA holds that extending this procedure to persons licensed/certified out-of-state without requiring the non-Ohio state extend similar service to Ohio licensed/certified persons creates an unfair labor and business environment. OBOA characterizes HB 203 in its present form as "half-reciprocity." OBOA would support legislation directing Ohio licensing agencies to implement full reciprocity where the non-Ohio states extend similar service to Ohio licensed/certified persons. Feel free to direct questions to either myself or my project officer, Charles Huber, e-mail chuber@fboa.org (M) 330-389-2954.

Sincerely,



Robert A Eifert
President