



Senator Andrew O. Brenner – 19th District
House State and Local Government Committee
November 20th, 2024
Senate Bill 44 – Sponsor Testimony

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Brennan, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for this opportunity to present sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 44. This legislation seeks to make professional licensure applications simpler and more streamlined for working Ohioans.

Having worked in real estate and insurance for over a decade, I can attest that virtually nothing can be done in these fields, as well as many others, without an up-to-date professional license.

For many people, licensure requirements for their respective professions include prior coursework, experience, continuing education, and professional development. With the already significant requirements that the many different kinds of professional credentialing in the state necessitate, there should be no more hurdles to acquiring these credentials than what is already laid out in Code.

With that in mind, I have introduced legislation intended to ease the process by which an individual applies for professional licensure. Senate Bill 44 simply requires that an online application be offered for individuals applying for professional licensure, certification, or other credentials. It also expressly allows an agency to offer a paper-based application as an option if they so choose, so long as there is still an option to apply digitally.

This change is intended to make the application, or the administrative procedure through which an individual demonstrates that they have completed the prerequisites necessary for a license, both easier for individuals to complete and more efficient for agencies to process. There is no

reason that an agency in 2023 should be offering only paper-based professional applications. It is overly-burdensome to the individual attempting to begin working and making a profession, and is not conducive to a pro-business environment.

The way this legislation is currently drafted, agencies would be required to utilize the current online licensure portal operated through the Department of Administrative Services. A number of other departments have reached out to me since the introduction of Senate Bill 44 to express their desire to operate licensure applications under a different system for one reason or another, and I see no reason to specify what online licensure portal is utilized, so long as some digital application is offered. With that in mind, I intend to work with stakeholders to come up with language that achieves the end-goal of allowing individuals to complete professional licensure applications online while still allowing flexibility for agencies offering these kinds of applications under different systems.

Chair Wiggam, members of the committee, thank you again for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 44. It is my hope that this legislation will improve the professional environment in Ohio and make it easier to work in our state. I am happy to answer any questions you may have as I am able.