



**Representatives Sarah Fowler Arthur & Mark Hiner
99th & 98th House Districts**

Rep. Fowler Arthur:

Chair Ray, Vice-Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Brent, and members of the General Government Committee, thank you for the dedication you have shown in reviewing the licenses subject to Ohio's Occupational Licensure Review. Your focused questions and commitment to ensuring that Ohio is incentivizing home-grown talent to live and work in our state, that we have fair fees and reasonable continuing education requirements, that protect both the profession and the consumer, have been evident throughout this process and in your recent committee report.

This is the same focus Representative Hiner and I have brought to substitute HB59. We have substantial alignment with the committee report, as well as a strong commitment to cutting red tape and bureaucracy. Throughout the process of drafting this language, we have been meeting with agencies, boards, and local experts across these fields to obtain a maximum understanding of the role of each license, the true cost to the state for issuance, accountability, and consumer protection, and to highlight areas where we have significantly different requirements from surrounding states.

You will also notice several process changes. As we begin this second round of reviews, we have seen significant detail included in the LSC reports that is often duplicated without much additional information in the second agency report. We believe giving more authority to the Committee Chair to determine if a secondary report or in-person hearing is necessary will help keep future reviews efficient and effective by allowing the committee time to delve into areas of interest and specific need with greater detail and focus.

We also think that it would be helpful to have more quantitative data around the impact of changes made through the review process on numbers of applicants, new and renewed licenses, turnaround time, consumer protection cases, and agency/board costs and fees. More detailed data will help pinpoint areas requiring additional focus in future reviews while ensuring a data-anchored approach to our decisions.

Similar to past reviews, you'll notice we have reduced fees for 20 licensure areas. This is consistent with the intent to reduce barriers to entry and incentivize in-state renewals. In considering which fees to reduce and by how much, we compared Ohio's licensure fee and

length of license to our surrounding states' comparable licenses. In many of the areas that you see fee reductions, Ohio charged at least 50% more than our neighboring states.

The bill also eliminates 4 licenses that have either become outdated, irrelevant, or where no comparable license exists in surrounding states, we have retained state-specific licenses that enhance opportunities for the licensee or demonstrably serve the public good. There are 9 licenses with requirement modifications. These are largely based upon feedback from stakeholders and licensees within the specific field.

Rep Hiner:

Thank you, Representative Fowler-Arthur, for outlining the procedural changes that we have been working on to give future General Assemblies better tools to tackle the biennial occupational licensure review.

I would like to take this time to highlight some of the specific changes we made to decrease barriers to entry and streamline the occupational licensure process in Ohio:

First, we have consolidated and simplified several overlapping licenses, such as those for radon professionals. Currently, there are separate licenses for radon mitigation contractors, specialists, and testers. We have combined these into a single "Radon Mitigation Specialist" license and lowered the fee from \$600 to \$200. This consolidation keeps safety standards strong while allowing qualified professionals to perform a broader range of services without unnecessary administrative hurdles.

Across many boards and agencies, we also took a close look at areas where fees had grown far beyond what was reasonable. Within the Medical Board, for example, license fees for physicians, podiatrists, and radiologist assistants have been reduced from roughly \$300 to \$200 or less. In the Department of Health, lead abatement contractors and designers will see their costs cut in half, from \$500 to \$250, alongside other fee reductions for clearance technicians and environmental health specialists. These are meaningful savings for those maintaining professional certification, and they help bring Ohio's fees back in line with surrounding states.

The Department of Natural Resources also saw significant updates, particularly in outdoor and environmental industries where we can support small business operators and landowners. Licenses for wild animal hunting preserves, for example, were reduced from \$1,000 to \$300 for initial applications and from \$200 to \$150 for renewals. That is a more appropriate reflection of the administrative cost while still ensuring safety and accountability in these operations.

We want to make clear that these licenses are not meant to just be cash cows for the agencies that issue them. Their purpose is to ensure that professionals are properly trained, certified, and

accountable for the quality and safety of their work. When license fees climb well beyond the true cost of oversight, it creates inequities between professions and between states. Our goal is simply to make sure these costs are fair, transparent, and reflective of what it actually takes to administer the program, not a revenue stream disconnected from that mission.

By cutting red tape, simplifying overlapping requirements, and aligning our fees and standards with neighboring states, we are helping make Ohio a more attractive place to work and grow a career. These reforms will make it easier for professionals to stay licensed and active here while ensuring that our system continues to protect consumers and uphold high standards.

Rep Fowler Arthur:

I want to thank Representative Hiner for joining me in crafting this bill, along with the valuable input from the committee and our diligent policy staff. We welcome any questions you might have

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Fowler Arthur". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Sarah Fowler Arthur
State Representative 99th House District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark A. Hiner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Mark Hiner
State Representative 98th House District

OHIO ATHLETICS COMMISSION

License	Change to License
Athlete Agent	Lower license fee from \$500 to \$400
Tough Persons/Super Tough Persons	Eliminate license

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

License	Change to License
Home Inspector	Allow continuing education credits to be completed throughout the entire license period rather than 14 hours each year. Lower license fee from \$250 to \$200 for initial and \$250 to \$200 for renewal

OHIO ENVIORNMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

License	Change to License
Enhanced motor vehicle inspection and maintenance inspector	Maintain (Add language to state that if E-Check program is eliminated at the federal level, license will also be eliminated)

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

License	Change to License
Bright New Leaders alternative principal	Reduce initial and renewal license fee from \$200 to \$150

Professional pupil services license	Require a school counselor to complete the building trades professional development within five years of initial licensure, rather than every 5 years. Allow licensed counselors to complete construction trades professional development again as part of the professional development requirements and expand what qualifies as professional development to include career focused alternatives.
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OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

License	Change to License
Commercial bird shooting preserve	Lower initial and renewal license fee from \$200 to \$150
Commercial nuisance wild animal control operator – employee	Eliminate license
Fish wholesaler	Lower license fee from \$65 to \$50
Mine foreperson of nongaseous mines	Eliminate License
Wild animal hunting preserve	Reduce license from \$1000 to \$300 for initial fee ; Reduce renewal fee from \$200 to \$150



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

License	Change to License
Clearance technician	Lower initial and renewal license fee from \$250 to \$150

Environmental health specialists in training and registered environmental health specialist	Expand the definition of basic sciences to allow for a broader pool of professionals; reduce work requirements to obtain license from 2 years to 1 year and from 1 year to 6 months for respective paths to licensure; allow for one additional year for advanced certification (from 4 to 5 years)
Lead abatement contractor	Reduce license and renewal fee from \$500 to \$250
Lead abatement project designer	Reduce license and renewal fee from \$500 to \$250
Lead inspector	Reduce license fee and renewal fee from \$250 to \$200
Lead risk assessor	Reduce license fee and renewal fee from \$250 to \$200
Radiation expert/Certified radiation expert	Eliminate the license, instead require the hospital to maintain the record of the person who holds the certification
Radon mitigation contractor	Eliminate license
Radon mitigation specialist	Combine all radon licenses into radon mitigation specialist effective January 1, 2027. Reduce license fee and renewal fee from \$600 to \$200
Radon tester	Eliminate license

STATE MEDICAL BOARD

License	Change to License
Conceded eminence certificate	Reduce the license fee and renewal fee from \$1000 to \$300
Dietitian/Dietician Limited Permit	Lower license fee and renewal fee from \$225 to \$95 For limited license, lower license fee and renewal fee from \$65 to \$50
Physician Assistant	Lower license fee and renewal fee from \$400 to \$100
Physician	Lower license and renewal fee from \$305 to \$200
Podiatrist	Lower license and renewal fee from \$305 to \$200
Radiologist assistant	Lower license fee and renewal fee from \$200 to \$100
Special activity certificate (for physicians licensed in another state or country)	If physician is volunteering services, the license will be free. Otherwise, reduce license from \$125 to \$75. Allow individual to apply for license 12 times instead of 6 times.