



# THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

## **Occupational Licensing Reform Opens Doors to Ohio's Workers**

Interested Party Testimony  
Ohio House General Government Committee  
Ohio House Bill 59

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As Prepared for Delivery

Thank you, Chair Ray, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Brent, and members of the Committee for the opportunity to testify regarding **Ohio House Bill 59**.

My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am a research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, an independent research and educational institution—a think tank—whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

With Senate Bill 255, the 132<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **instructed** legislative panels to periodically review Ohio’s bureaucratic thicket and remove unnecessary licensing boards and training requirements. The Buckeye Institute **championed** that directive and supports the latest review of licensing requirements in House Bill 59.

Occupational licensing rules may not make news headlines, but they do make a difference in the lives of workers looking to start or extend their careers. House Bill 59 improves upon the current review process by making the quantitative data from licensing boards and related entities more specific. That specificity will better inform legislative hearings and make future licensing reviews more thorough and effective.

The Buckeye Institute’s latest **Opening Doors** policy brief recommends eliminating or reforming 39 state-required licenses. Many of these recommendations also appear in House Bill 59, including license fee reductions for physicians, physician assistants, podiatrists, radiologic assistants, environmental health specialists, and lead abatement contractors. The bill would consolidate several separate radon-related licenses into a single “Radon Mitigation Specialist” license and reduce the relevant fees. It also would eliminate licenses for “Tough Guy” contests and lighten continuing education burdens for licensed school counselors.

House Bill 59 will improve the entire licensing review process by requiring various licensing entities to include updated quantitative data regarding:

- The number of applicants;
- The number of application approvals and denials;
- The number of new approvals;
- The number of renewals, including approval of applicants who previously had approval;
- The number of disciplinary actions taken by the licensing body; and
- Changes in revenue and costs.

Thank you, Chair Ray and members of the Committee, for your diligent efforts to reduce Ohio’s bureaucratic burdens. I would be happy to answer any questions that the Committee might have.

### ***About The Buckeye Institute***

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