Occupational Licensing Review

Ohio Department of Health Food Safety

July 17, 2025

Agency Questionnaire

1.Agency Name – Ohio Department of Health

2.Point of Contact – Lisa Griffin Chapa, Director of Government Affairs

3.Describe the board's primary purpose, goals and objectives, and licenses issued.

> *Certification in Food Protection* - The program establishes standards for education and training provided to food managers to promote food safety practices for preventing foodborne illness. As specified in ORC 3717.09, the Director of Health approves person-in-charge (PIC) and manager courses of study for certification in food protection, and issues manager certificates to individuals who successfully complete a manager certification course of study and pass the examination. The program does not issue licenses.

4.Describe the board's annual workload. How many staff are employed?

> All program duties are completed by Ohio Department of Health Food Program staff. There are four ODH program staff, one program administrator, and one support completing these duties.

5.How many new licenses does the board issue annually? How many renewed licenses are issued annually? How much does a new license cost? How much does a renewal cost?

> ODH issues approximately 15,000 manager certificates per year. The manager certification does not expire, so renewals are not required. ODH does not charge for certification.

6.In the past 5 years, has there been any consideration to lower the licensure cost?

> Not applicable since ODH does not charge a fee.

7.How much revenue is procured from the licensure fees? What does this revenue fund?

> Not applicable since ODH does not charge a fee.

8.Are there any federal regulations, or regulations required to be met outside of the existing licensure requirements that have to be complied with? Does federal law require the board to be renewed in some form?

There are no applicable federal laws for certification in food protection.

9.Does the board issue an examination prior to licensure? Does the board issues continuing education courses? If so, how often is continuing education necessary? If the examination or continuing education requirements are done outside the board then what determines the selection of an outside organization to host it?

The Ohio Department of Health does not directly provide the training for Ohio person in charge (PIC) certification in food protection, but does approve providers to facilitate a course for Ohio PIC certification.

Individuals must pass an exam prior to receiving a manager certificate, but the exam is administered by the course provider or website. ODH does not issue CE courses.

10.How many other states regulate the occupation or occupations under the board's jurisdiction? Is a license required to engage in that occupation or those occupations in other states?

A license is not required to engage in the occupation of person in charge or manager of a food service operation or retail food establishment. There are a number of other states, counties and cities outside of Ohio that certify individuals who complete a certification in food protection course and exam. However, ODH is not aware of their laws, rules, or practices.

11.Has the operation of the board inhibited economic growth, reduced efficiency, or increased the cost of government?

No.

12.Are there any licenses that are no longer issued by the board? No.

13.Is there anything that the board would like to see changed or implemented in regards to occupational licensing within the scope of this legislative review?

Not at this time.

14.Has the board recommended statutory changes to the general assembly that would benefit the public as opposed to the persons regulated by the board, if any, and have those recommendations and other policies been adopted and implemented?

N/A.

15.Is the preservation of the board and the board’s licenses necessary to protect the public’s health, safety, or welfare?

The programs are necessary to ensure persons in charge (PIC) and managers are properly trained and certified to provide safe food to consumers and reduce the prevalence of foodborne illness.

16.Could the public be protected or served in an alternate or less restrictive manner? If applicable, please identify any licenses or functions of the board that could be eliminated or consolidated.

The person in charge and manager certification programs ensure that persons in charge and managers are properly trained and certified in food protection to provide safe food to consumers and reduce the prevalence of foodborne illness. The certification is free.

17.Any additional notes or comments the board believes the committee should be aware of?

OAC 3717-1-02.4(A)(3) requires each risk level III and IV food service operation and retail food establishment to have at least one manager that has obtained a manager certificate from ODH. OAC 3701-21-25 requires food service operations and retail food establishments initially licensed after March 1, 2010 to have one person in charge per shift that has person in charge certification. Individuals are not prohibited from working in the food industry if they don't have a certificate.