Question	Answer
1. Board Name	Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board
2. Point of Contact	Abby Schafer, Legislative Director
3. Describe the board's primary purpose, goals and objectives, and licenses issued.	The Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board (the “Board”) oversees the licensure of individuals working in specialty trades regulated by Chapter 4740 of the Ohio Revised Code. These commercial contractors include five specialty trades: Electrical, Heating Ventilating and Air Conditioning (HVAC), Plumbing, Hydronics and Refrigeration Contractors. The Board’s primary goal is to promote public safety for occupants of regulated commercial projects, individuals working in these trades and the construction industry by verifying that individuals working in the “licensed trades” have sufficient education, training, and experience to ensure that the work performed in these trades is done properly and competently. It should also be noted that the requirements of the licensing law (ORC 4740) should not deter individuals from entering the trades. Licensing requirements apply to “contracting companies” and only require each contracting company to have one active license holder for the trade in which they engage. The contracting company oversees the work of its employees who are typically not licensed. Therefore, the licensed contracting company must have at least one employee that is experienced and up to date on codes and technology. The Board’s licensing system is streamlined to accommodate the renewals and issuance of approximately 15,200 commercial contractor licenses and approves training agencies for continuing education.
4. Describe the board’s annual workload. How many staff are employed?	The Board consists of seventeen (17) total members, which are divided up between the administrative section and three specialty sections ((1) plumbing and hydronics section; (2) electrical section; and (3) heating, ventilating, air conditioning, and refrigeration section). The administrative section consists of five (5) members, which are the Director of the Ohio Department of Commerce or their designee, a member who represents the public that cannot be a member of any group certified by the Board, and one member from each specialty section elected by those specialty sections. The plumbing and hydronics section consists of five (5) members and includes a plumbing inspector employed by the Department, a municipal corporation, or a health district; two plumbing contractors with no affiliation with any union representing plumbers; and two plumbing contractors that are signatories to agreements with unions representing plumbers. The electrical section consists of five (5) members, which are an electrical inspector employed by the Department, a municipal corporation, or a county; two electrical contractors with no affiliation with any union representing electricians; and two electrical contractors that are signatories to agreements with unions representing electricians. The heating, ventilating, air conditioning, and refrigeration section consists of five (5) members, which are an HVAC and refrigeration inspector employed by the Department or a municipal corporation; two HVAC or refrigeration contractors with no affiliation with any union representing HVAC or refrigeration tradespersons; and two HVAC or refrigeration contractors that are signatories to agreements with unions HVAC or refrigeration

	tradespersons. The Board issues approximately 15,200 licenses total. As part of its licensing function, the Board investigates complaints against licensees and unlicensed individuals, conducting disciplinary proceedings when necessary. The Board also approves and renews training agencies and their courses for continuing education. The Board is supported by six administrative staff members.
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?	The Board issued roughly 425 new licenses each year. The initial fee is $50 ($25 application fee and $25 issuance fee). The annual number of licenses renewed varies. A contractor has the option to renew their license on a rolling basis for one or three years. 1 year renewal: $60 3 year renewal: $180 The Board processes approximately 6,620 renewals per year. There are approximately 15,200 licenses total. A contractor can hold multiple licenses. The Board's renewal and fee structure makes it easier for a contractor to renew all their licenses for the same fee and continuing education.
6. In the past 5 years, has there been any consideration to lower the licensure cost?	No, Ohio has one of the lowest contractor license costs in the United States. The fees have not been adjusted since 2000 under HB 434.
7. How much revenue is procured from the licensure fees? What does this revenue fund?	The Board receives approximately $350,000 annually. The Board receives no General Revenue Funding and is largely funded by licensing, registration, and examination. In accordance with R.C. 4740.03(B)(2)(d) and R.C. 4740.11, revenue of the Board is deposited into the Division of Industrial Compliance's operating fund and is used toward the operating expenses of the Division and the Board in its administration of their duties.
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?	No, federal law does not require that the board be renewed in some form.
9. Does the board issue an examination prior to licensure? Does the board issue 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	An applicant must pass Business and Law exam and a Code exam with a 70% pass rate. Upon request the board offers a 1–2-hour business course. A commercial contractor is required to complete either 8 hours of continuing education for a 1-year license renewal or 24 hours of continuing education for a 3-year licensure renewal. The Board engages in the request for proposal process every three years to select the administrator of its licensing exams.

selection of an outside organization to host it?	
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?	The initial licensing and license renewal requirements for these occupations are substantially equivalent to every state. The amount of regulation exercised by the Board compared to the regulation of these occupations, if any in other states is generally comparable. It is important to take other state systems requirements in proper context when comparing them to the requirements imposed by Ohio. For example, a few states do not have a statewide license for contractors; however, the vast majority of those states (much like Ohio before the creation of the Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board) have multiple municipalities that require individual licenses to perform work in that jurisdiction. As an example, Ohio requires one license that is valid statewide to perform commercial electric work, but before the Board an electric contractor might need to hold fifty separate licenses (with separate fees and requirements) to operate across the state. Many states used in the comparison documents have similar schemes allowing municipalities to essentially require individual licenses for work in a specific jurisdiction. Additionally, many states have different fee structures for contractor license, but Ohio holds up very favorably when apple to apple comparisons are made. As an example, several states require all journeymen to renew their registration annually for what appears to be a much smaller fee. At first glance, the fee itself is more affordable; however, the impact is felt across the entire industry as opposed to just the license holders in Ohio. Pennsylvania doesn't have a statewide license for trades, but some municipalities require licenses for the trades and individual licenses for journeymen. For example, some cities have a journeyman electrician certification fee of $50, while another charges $100. In Philadelphia, the application fee for a journeyman plumber's license is $25, and the license fee is $100. In contrast, Allegheny County charges $133 for the journeyman plumber exam and an additional $125 for the license, with an annual renewal fee of $125. Journeymen comprise much of the entire workforce in contracting and therefore require a far more significant number of individuals being subjected to the registration process. In essence, Ohio has streamlined the license process in the trades: licenses are only required to engage in the most impactful and potentially dangerous trades in commercial projects (not every trade requires a license), licensing is only required on commercial projects (excluded residential), licenses are only required for contracting companies (not for every individual journeymen), and the annual fees are extremely affordable ($60/year not raised in 20+ years).
11. Has the operation of the board inhibited economic growth, reduced efficiency, or increased the cost of government?	No, the Board is actively engaged in continual advancement of the skilled trades by educating the communities on the need of careers in the trades. The board has recently created a new path to allow individuals more opportunities to be approved to take the exam to help increase the number of licensed contractors working in the state of Ohio.
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?	At this time, the Board does not have any specific changes or implementations to suggest. The Board actively engages with stakeholders to address their needs and adapt to evolving codes and technology in the construction industry.
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?	No.
15. Is the preservation of the board and the board's licenses necessary to protect the public's health, safety, or welfare?	Contractors in these specialty trades hold people's lives in their hands. These trades can blow up, burn down, or flood a building. If not performed in a proper manner, people's lives who enter commercial buildings may be at risk. Contractors must demonstrate prior experience, pass a rigorous test, complete continuing education, and carry liability insurance. The Board ensures that these contractors are held to these standards that protect the public.
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.	There are no licenses or functions of the Board that could be eliminated or consolidated. We are not aware of any other regulatory authority that covers the licensed trades. No, there are not any licenses or functions that the board could eliminate or consolidate without the possibility of harm or death to Ohioans.
17. Any additional notes or comments the board believes the committee should be aware of?	In September 2024, the Board initiated a rule change that broadens the acceptable categories of experience and documentation that the Board may consider when reviewing candidates that wish to become licensed. Previously applicants only had one avenue to demonstrate the requisite experience to the Board (five permits from local building departments, and five W-2s). With the Rule change, the Board may now consider several new factors when determining if the applicant satisfies the experience necessary to become a licensed contractor in Ohio. 1) Five years of permits showing five years of experience conducting work in the trade applying 2) Journeyman's Card issued by a local city, union or foreign state 3) Ohio approved or US Department of Labor approved apprenticeship program certificate of completion 4) 40 hours of continuing education in code in the trade applying Additionally, in most circumstances certain

	veterans, inspectors and professional engineers are automatically approved to take the test in the trade for which they are applying.