Question	Answer
1. Board Name	Ohio EPA, Division of Drinking and Ground Water
2. Point of Contact	Andrew Barienbrock
3. Describe the board's primary purpose, goals and objectives, and licenses issued.	The professional operator certification program seeks to ensure that public water and wastewater systems are operated by well-trained and qualified individuals to ensure the protection of public health. The program ensures the people in charge of the technical operation of these treatment plants have the experience necessary to perform daily process control to guarantee protection of public health and the environment. The program is part of Ohio's multi-barrier approach to ensuring that the citizens of Ohio have clean drinking water and are able to enjoy Ohio's natural resources. Failure to have qualified, certified professional operators, making timely and vital process control decisions at treatment facilities, would result in contamination of drinking water and pose a threat to the citizens of the state of Ohio. These operators are essential for the protection of public health and the environment. Ohio EPA issues the following professional operator certificates for 14 different classifications and types of operations: • Class A, I, II, III and IV Water Supply • Class I and II Water Distribution • Class A, I, II, III and IV Water Reclamation; and • Class I and II Collection System
4. Describe the board's annual workload. How many staff are employed?	a) The Ohio EPA professional operator certification section oversees approximately 2,800 certification examinations and 13,300 individual course sessions per year. The section issues approximately 1000 new certificates, reviews approximately 30 reciprocity applications, reviews approximately 1500 new course applications and 2000 courses approved by training providers per year. The section oversees approximately 4,500 renewals per year. b) 2.8 FTE (2 ES2s, 0.5 Sup, 0.3 mgr)
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?	a) In FY 2025, Ohio EPA issued 980 new certificates. b)The number of renewals per year varies because professional operators are on a 2-year cycle from when they receive their certification. The average is 4,500 renewals per year. c) $45 d) Class A = $25, Class I = $35, Class II = $45, Class III = $55, and Class IV = $65.
6. In the past 5 years, has there been any consideration to lower the licensure cost?	No, the costs have not been increased in over 25 years.
7. How much revenue is procured from the licensure fees? What does this revenue fund?	a) In SFY 2025, Ohio EPA received $248,422 from certification and renewal fees associated with the professional operator certification program. That money is used to fund a portion of Ohio's professional operator certification program. b) The revenue

	partially funds the program. Ohio EPA uses other funds to make up the funds necessary to run the program.
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?	a) There are no additional federal regulations required to be met outside of the existing licensure requirements. However, federal law does require the state to have a drinking water operator certification program, or the state risks the loss of 20% of its state revolving fund loan allocation. b) As noted above, federal law does require the state to have a program that meets minimum requirements to prevent the withdrawal of drinking water funds.
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 selection of an outside organization to host it?	a) Ohio EPA requires an operator to pass an examination before applying for certification. b) Ohio EPA requires operators to obtain continuing education before renewing their certificates. c) Certified professional operators are required to document a minimum amount of continuing education every 2 years. d) A vast majority of the training is provided by third-party training providers. Ohio EPA reviews and approves continuing education course applications.
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) All 50 states regulate the occupations under Ohio EPA's jurisdiction. b) Yes, all other states require operators in charge of facilities to have an appropriate professional certification. Ohio only requires the operator of record to be certified, while other states require all operators working at a facility to be certified.
11. Has the operation of the board inhibited economic growth, reduced efficiency, or increased the cost of government?	Ohio EPA does not believe the program has inhibited economic growth or reduced efficiency. The program has probably stimulated economic growth in the training provider and contract operations sector.
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?	Ohio EPA does not believe any changes are currently necessary.
14. Has the board recommended statutory changes to the general assembly that would benefit the	Ohio EPA has not proposed any statutory changes.

public as opposed to the persons regulated by the board, if any, and have those recommendations and other policies been adopted and implemented?	
15. Is the preservation of the board and the board's licenses necessary to protect the public's health, safety, or welfare?	Yes.
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.	We are not aware of any alternative or less restrictive means for ensuring the public health and safety.
17. Any additional notes or comments the board believes the committee should be aware of?	None.