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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
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Office

<p><b>H.B. 59</b> <b>136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly</b></p>	<p><b>Bill Analysis</b></p> <p><a href="#">Click here for H.B. 59's Fiscal Note</a></p>
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## SUMMARY

This analysis is arranged by the general provisions affecting occupational review followed by the state agencies subject to review this biennium.

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## GENERAL PROVISIONS

### Occupational regulation review

- Expands, beginning with the biennium that starts in 2027, the scope of the Legislative Service Commission’s (LSC) statutorily required review of occupational regulations to include the factors that the standing committee of the General Assembly must consider when conducting its review of the board that regulates the occupation.
- Requires, beginning with the biennium that starts in 2027, the LSC Director to require any department or board that regulates an occupation to provide additional specified information to be included in LSC’s report.
- Allows a standing committee conducting the General Assembly’s statutorily required review of occupational licensing boards to accept the report issued by LSC in the immediately preceding biennium in lieu of receiving testimony from the chief executive officer of an occupational licensing board or requiring the board to submit a report containing specified information to the committee.
- Expands the information an occupational licensing board must include in the report required to be submitted to the standing committee to include any experience or other requirements an individual must meet to serve as a member of the governing board or governing entity.
- Renews for six years the occupational licensing boards reviewed this biennium by the House General Government Committee.

### LSC report

Beginning with the biennium that starts in 2027, the bill expands the scope of the Legislative Service Commission’s (LSC) statutorily required report on occupational regulations to include the factors that the standing committee of the General Assembly must consider when conducting its review of the board that regulates the occupation. LSC’s report generally covers the occupational regulations issued by the boards that the General Assembly will review in the following biennium.<sup>1</sup>

Beginning with the biennium that starts in 2027, the LSC Director must require any department or board that regulates an occupation to provide the following information to be included in LSC’s report:

- Quantitative data on the following information, if applicable, for the period since the occupation was last reported on by the LSC Director:
  - The number of applicants;

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 103.27(B).

- Application approvals and denials;
  - New approvals;
  - Renewals, including approval of applicants who previously had approval to practice the occupation;
  - Data regarding discipline;
  - Revenue and costs;
  - Changes in revenue and costs since the occupation was last reported on by the LSC Director;
  - Changes in caseload since the occupation was last included in the report issued by the LSC Director.
- An impact statement, including studies or data points, on any changes made to the occupation by the General Assembly during the period since the occupation was last reported on by the LSC Director. The impact statement must detail the impact of such a change on the board or department, the regulated occupation, and the public.
  - Additional documentation to support any response made to the LSC Director for inclusion in the report that is quantitative in nature, including responses related to fee structure and expenses of the department or board.<sup>2</sup>

Continuing law requires LSC to publish a biennial report comparing one-third of the state's occupational regulations with the general state policy outlined in continuing law every six years.<sup>3</sup> Under continuing law, the House of Representatives and the Senate must review one-third of the state's occupational licensing boards each biennium – including all boards that are scheduled to expire at the end of the biennium. An occupational licensing board is triggered for expiration following the sixth year after it was created or last renewed by an act of the General Assembly.<sup>4</sup>

## **General Assembly review**

The bill allows a standing committee tasked with the General Assembly's statutorily required review of occupational licensing boards to accept the report issued by LSC in the immediately preceding biennium in lieu of either of the following current law requirements:

- The requirement that the standing committee receive testimony from the chief executive officer of an occupational licensing board under review;
- The requirement that an occupational licensing board scheduled to be reviewed submit a report containing specified information to the standing committee.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> R.C. 103.27(E).

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 103.27.

<sup>4</sup> R.C. 101.62, not in the bill; R.C. 101.63.

<sup>5</sup> R.C. 101.63(E).

The bill expands the information an occupational licensing board must include in the report required to be submitted to the standing committee to include any experience or other requirements an individual must meet to serve as a member of the governing board or governing entity. In addition to other specified information, continuing law requires an occupational licensing board to include the number of members of its governing board or other governing entity and their compensation in the report.<sup>6</sup>

## **Renewal of occupational licensing boards**

The bill renews until December 31 of the sixth year following the bill's enactment, the occupational licensing boards that were reviewed by the House General Government Committee during the 136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.<sup>7</sup> Those boards are as follows:

- The Ohio Athletic Commission;
- The following divisions and boards within the Department of Commerce:
  - Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board;
  - Historical Boilers Licensing Board;
  - Ohio Home Inspector Licensing Board;
  - Division of Securities;
- The State Board of Education;
- The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency;
- The Ohio Department of Health;
- The State Medical Board;
- The Ohio Department of Natural Resources.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> R.C. 101.63(B)(4).

<sup>7</sup> Section 4.

<sup>8</sup> See the House General Government Committee's [Occupational License Review Committee Report](#), which can be found by on the House General Government Committee's October 22, 2025, meeting page on the General Assembly's website: [legislature.ohio.gov](http://legislature.ohio.gov).

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## OHIO ATHLETIC COMMISSION

### Ohio Athletic Commission transfer

- Places the Ohio Athletic Commission within the Department of Commerce for administrative purposes.
- Requires the Director of Commerce to appoint an Administrator of Athletics to act as the Commission's executive officer.
- Transfers several of the Commission's administrative functions to the Administrator but retains the Commission's policy and oversight functions.

### Tough man and tough guy contests

- Requires the Ohio Athletic Commission to regulate tough man and tough guy contests as mixed martial arts (MMA) competitions.
- Prohibits the Commission and the Administrator from requiring a person seeking to participate in or conduct a tough man or tough guy contest to hold a license or permit that is separate from a license or permit required for an MMA competition.

### Athletic agent fees

- Changes the fee for an initial and renewed athlete agent registration to \$400 from an amount necessary to administer the Athlete Agent Law as determined by the Commission (currently, the fee is \$500).

### Ohio Athletic Commission transfer

The bill places the Ohio Athletic Commission within the Department of Commerce for administrative purposes.<sup>9</sup> The Commission generally regulates unarmed combat sports under the Ohio Athletic Commission Law and athlete agents under the Athlete Agent Law.<sup>10</sup> The bill requires the Director of Commerce to appoint a Department employee as the Administrator of Athletics to act as the Commission's executive officer. The Administrator serves at the Director's pleasure. The bill eliminates the Commission's ability to appoint an Executive Director.<sup>11</sup> It also transfers several of the Commission's administrative functions to the Administrator, such as reviewing license applications and issuing and renewing licenses. The Commission retains its policy and oversight functions, such as adopting rules, establishing standards regarding unarmed combat sports, investigating complaints, conducting hearings, and taking disciplinary actions.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> R.C. 3773.33.

<sup>10</sup> R.C. 3773.31 to 3773.59 and 3773.99 and R.C. Chapter 4771.

<sup>11</sup> R.C. 3773.33 and 3773.56.

<sup>12</sup> See, e.g., R.C. 3773.34, 3773.45, 3773.52, 3773.53, 4771.05, and 4771.18.

## Transfer of functions

As noted above, the bill transfers several of the Commission’s administrative functions to the Administrator or the Director. The table below provides an overview of the major transfer of functions under the bill. The table is not exhaustive and does not specify all the Commission’s, Administrator’s, or Director’s functions under the bill or continuing law. It also does not specify instances where the Administrator is substituted under the bill to perform a function the Commission’s Executive Director currently performs.<sup>13</sup>

Transfer of Ohio Athletic Commission functions under the bill		
Function	Who performs it under current law	Who performs it under the bill
Carrying out the Ohio Athletic Commission Law and the Athlete Agent Law <i>(R.C. 3773.34)</i>	The Commission	The Commission and the Administrator
Employing persons to administer the Ohio Athletic Commission Law and Athlete Agent Law <i>(R.C. 3773.51, 3773.52, and 3773.56)</i>	The Commission	The Director
Issuing, denying, suspending, or revoking licenses to persons engaged in a public boxing or wrestling match or exhibition <i>(R.C. 3773.34)</i>	The Commission	The Commission or the Administrator when authorized by the Commission
Issuing and renewing a promotor’s license to conduct a match or exhibition and obtaining from the applicant a bond and a certificate of its filing with the Treasurer of State <i>(R.C. 3773.35, 3773.36, and 3773.54)</i>	The Commission	The Administrator
Receiving applications for permits to conduct a match or exhibition and bonds covering the estimated gross receipts <i>(R.C. 3773.38)</i>	The Commission	The Commission or the Administrator when authorized by the Commission
Designating a serial number for a permit to conduct a match or exhibition <i>(R.C. 3773.39)</i>	The Commission	The Commission or the Administrator when authorized by the Commission

<sup>13</sup> See, e.g., R.C. 3773.39, 3773.40, and 3773.57.

Transfer of Ohio Athletic Commission functions under the bill		
Function	Who performs it under current law	Who performs it under the bill
Issuing and renewing licenses to participate in an unarmed combat sport as a referee, judge, matchmaker, timekeeper, manager, trainer, contestant, or second and designating a number for the license <i>(R.C. 3773.41, 3773.42, and 3773.421)</i>	The Commission	The Administrator
Charging a fee to issue or renew a license or permit under the Ohio Athletic Commission Law <i>(R.C. 3773.43)</i>	The Commission	The Commission and the Administrator
Requiring the filing of a photograph with identification of an applicant for a promoter's or participant's license <i>(R.C. 3773.37)</i>	The Commission	The Administrator
Receiving reports regarding a contestant's physical examination <i>(R.C. 3773.45)</i>	The Commission	The Administrator
Appointing licensed referees and judges for matches and exhibitions <i>(R.C. 3773.45)</i>	The Commission	The Administrator (the Director also appoints referees and judges for matches and exhibitions <i>(R.C. 3773.51)</i> )
Receiving box office statements for a match or exhibition <i>(R.C. 3773.52)</i>	The Commission	The Administrator
Revoking a contestant's license if the Commission finds the contestant did not compete to the contestant's best ability <i>(R.C. 3773.52)</i>	The Commission	The Commission or the Administrator when authorized by the Commission
Receiving reports regarding a match or exhibition and taxes on the gross proceeds <i>(R.C. 3773.54)</i>	The Commission	The Administrator

<b>Transfer of Ohio Athletic Commission functions under the bill</b>		
<b>Function</b>	<b>Who performs it under current law</b>	<b>Who performs it under the bill</b>
Subpoenaing any person, and examining books and records, regarding an unsatisfactory report, to determine the gross proceeds for a match or exhibition and the tax due <i>(R.C. 3773.55)</i>	The Commission	The Administrator
Prescribing the due date for the tax on the gross proceeds from a match or exhibition and sending a delinquency notice if the taxpayer fails to pay the tax on that date <i>(R.C. 3773.55)</i>	The Commission	The Administrator
Depositing receipts under the Ohio Athletic Commission Law and the Athlete Agent Law in the Occupational Licensing and Regulatory Fund <i>(R.C. 3773.56 and 4771.22)</i>	The Commission	The Commission and the Administrator
Complying with the procedures and requirements concerning a licensee being in default under a child support order on receiving a notice <i>(R.C. 3773.59)</i>	The Commission	The Commission and the Administrator
Issuing and renewing athlete agent registration certificates, issuing temporary certificates, and maintaining records of registered agents <i>(R.C. 4771.05, 4771.07, and 4771.08)</i>	The Commission	The Administrator
Receiving notification regarding an athlete agent's change in business location <i>(R.C. 4771.07)</i>	The Commission	The Administrator
Issuing and renewing certificates of convenience to temporarily conduct business as an athlete agent <i>(R.C. 4771.09)</i>	The Commission	The Administrator
Monitoring an athlete agent's compliance with any continuing education requirements <i>(R.C. 4771.10)</i>	The Commission	The Commission or the Administrator

Transfer of Ohio Athletic Commission functions under the bill		
Function	Who performs it under current law	Who performs it under the bill
Requiring an athlete agent to submit proof of maintaining a security for persons injured if the agent violates the Athlete Agent Law, using the funds to pay the agent's debts, and suspending the registration of an agent who fails to maintain the security <i>(R.C. 4771.11)</i>	The Commission	The Administrator
Receiving notification regarding the athlete agent's trust account into which the agent must deposit an athlete's revenue <i>(R.C. 4771.12)</i>	The Commission	The Administrator
Receiving disclosures of any ownership interest an athlete agent has in an entity to which the agent refers an athlete concerning investments <i>(R.C. 4771.13)</i>	The Commission	The Administrator
Requiring an athlete agent to maintain any appropriate records in connection with services the agent provides <i>(R.C. 4771.14)</i>	The Commission	The Commission or the Administrator
Inspecting any financial records or books an athlete agent must maintain <i>(R.C. 4771.14)</i>	The Commission	The Commission and the Administrator
Refusing to issue or renew an athlete agent registration for a reason specified under continuing law <i>(R.C. 4771.18)</i>	The Commission	The Administrator
Suspending or revoking an athlete agent registration on receiving notice the agent is convicted of, or pleaded guilty to, the offense of trafficking in persons <i>(R.C. 4771.23)</i>	The Commission	The Commission and the Administrator

## **Athletic law changes**

In addition to the transfer of functions described above, the bill makes various other changes under the Ohio Athletic Commission Law and the Athlete Agent Law. These changes are discussed below.

### **Ohio Athletic Commission Law**

#### ***Investigations and discipline***

The bill requires the Ohio Athletic Commission, on receiving a complaint of a violation of the Ohio Athletic Commission Law or a rule adopted under it, to investigate the complaint. If the Commission finds reasonable cause that a violation occurred, it must conduct a hearing under the Administrative Procedure Act. If the Commission finds a violation occurred, continuing law allows the Commission to revoke or suspend any license issued under the Ohio Athletic Commission Law. Consistent with the table above, as the Administrator issues licenses under the law, the bill transfers, from the Commission to the Administrator, the ability to refuse to renew a license for any reason specified under continuing law. The bill adds, as a reason for disciplining a licensee, instances where the licensee has violated the Ohio Athletic Commission Law or a rule adopted under it.<sup>14</sup>

#### ***Inspectors***

The bill eliminates a Commission member's ability to act as an inspector of a public boxing match or exhibition. Continuing law requires that an inspector be appointed to monitor various aspects regarding a match or exhibition.<sup>15</sup>

#### ***Promoter's license seals***

The bill changes the seal that must be placed on a promoter's license from the Commission's seal to the Department of Commerce's seal.<sup>16</sup>

### **Ohio Athlete Agent Law**

#### ***Immunity from athlete agent acts***

Under continuing law, the Commission is not liable for an athlete agent's acts. The bill applies this immunity to the Administrator.<sup>17</sup>

#### ***Athlete agent registration references***

The bill changes several references regarding registered athlete agents. Rather than refer to them being registered with the Ohio Athletic Commission as under current law, the bill refers to them as being registered under the Athlete Agent Law.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> R.C. 3773.53, by reference to R.C. Chapter 119.

<sup>15</sup> R.C. 3773.33 and 3773.52.

<sup>16</sup> R.C. 3773.36.

<sup>17</sup> R.C. 4771.08.

<sup>18</sup> R.C. 4771.02, 4771.08, 4771.16, and 4771.21.

## Transfer requirements

With respect to any business commenced but not completed by the Ohio Athletic Commission's Executive Director on the bill's effective date, the bill requires that business be completed by the Director of Commerce or the Administrator in the same manner, and with the same effect, as if completed by the Executive Director. Wherever the Executive Director is referred to in any law, contract, or other document, the reference is deemed to refer to the Director of Commerce or the Administrator.

On the bill's effective date, both of the following apply:

- Subject to the lay-off provisions of the Department of Administrative Services – Personnel Law, all the Commission's employees are transferred to the Department of Commerce, and they retain their positions and all accrued benefits.
- All the Commission's employment records, equipment, and assets must be transferred to the Department.

Any action or proceeding pending on the bill's effective date must be prosecuted or defended in the name of the Director of Commerce or the Administrator. The Director or Administrator, on application to the court, must be substituted as a party.<sup>19</sup>

## Regulatory restrictions – statewide cap

Beginning on the bill's effective date, the number of regulatory restrictions permitted in Ohio is increased by the number of regulatory restrictions contained in the Commission's rules in effect on that date. Under S.B. 9 of the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly, beginning July 1, 2025, the number of regulatory restrictions contained in rules adopted by certain administrative agencies cannot exceed the number of regulatory restrictions determined by the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review. The cap essentially is based on the number of regulatory restrictions remaining after the required reduction by those agencies.<sup>20</sup>

## Tough man and tough guy contests

The bill requires the Ohio Athletic Commission to regulate tough man and tough guy contests as mixed martial arts (MMA) competitions. Under the bill, a person seeking to participate in these contests as a referee, judge, matchmaker, timekeeper, manager, trainer, contestant, or second must be licensed in the same manner as a participant in an MMA competition. Additionally, a person who holds a promoter's license seeking to conduct a tough man or tough guy contest must obtain a permit in the same manner as for any other contest regulated by the Commission. Neither the Commission nor the Administrator may require a separate license or permit for either of those purposes. Under continuing law, a tough man or tough guy contest is any competition that involves any physical contact bout between individuals attempting to knock out the opponent with boxing, kicking, or choking techniques, martial arts

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<sup>19</sup> Section 5, by reference to R.C. 124.321 to 124.328, not in the bill.

<sup>20</sup> Section 6, by reference to R.C. 121.953, not in the bill.

tactics, or any combination of these activities.<sup>21</sup> It appears the bill codifies the Commission's current practice of regulating tough man and tough guy contests as MMA competitions.<sup>22</sup>

### **Athlete agent registration fee**

The bill changes the fee for an initial and renewed athlete agent registration to \$400. Currently, the Commission must establish the fee in an amount necessary to generate sufficient funds to administer and enforce the Athlete Agent Law.<sup>23</sup> Under continuing law, the registration is valid for two years. Currently, the fee for an initial and renewed registration is \$500.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> R.C. 3773.341, with conforming changes in R.C. 3773.31, 3773.35, 3773.36, 3773.43, 3773.45, and 3773.54.

<sup>22</sup> See pages 50 to 60 of LSC's [Occupational Regulation Report for the 135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly \(PDF\)](#), available at [lsc.ohio.gov](http://lsc.ohio.gov).

<sup>23</sup> R.C. Chapter 4771.

<sup>24</sup> R.C. 4771.05, 4771.07, and 4771.08 and Ohio Administrative Code (O.A.C.) 3773-1-05.

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## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE – OHIO HOME INSPECTOR BOARD**

### **Continuing education and renewal fees**

- Modifies the deadline by which a licensed home inspector must complete continuing education hours by requiring 42 hours to be completed every three years, rather than 14 hours annually as under current law.
- Decreases the maximum fee that can be set for an initial home inspector license or license renewal from \$250 to \$200 (currently the fees are \$235 each).

### **Continuing education and renewal fees**

The bill expands the deadline by which a licensed home inspector must fulfill the continuing education requirements. The bill allows the licensed home inspector to complete 42 hours over the three-year licensing term. Under current law, a licensed home inspector must complete at least 14 hours annually during each three-year period the home inspector's license is valid.<sup>25</sup>

The bill also decreases the initial licensing fee and renewal fee to \$200. Under current law, the Ohio Home Inspector Board must adopt a rule establishing these fees, which could be set up to \$250. This bill lowers the maximum licensing fee amount the Board can set to \$200. Currently, the license fee and renewal fee are \$235 each.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> R.C. 4764.08.

<sup>26</sup> R.C. 4764.05(A)(2) and O.A.C. 1301:17-1-03.

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## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

### **School counselor training in building and construction trades**

- Requires a licensed school counselor serving students in any of grades 7-12 to complete the four hours of training in building and construction trades required under continuing law within five years of initial licensure or, for those already licensed, five years of the bill's effective date.
- Permits a counselor, in lieu of repeating the training in building and construction trades as otherwise required under continuing law, to certify every five years to a local professional development committee that the counselor spent a minimum of four hours completing certain workforce-related activities.

### **Professional administrator licensure fees**

- Establishes a fee of \$150 to obtain or renew a professional administrator license for individuals who complete the Bright New Leaders for Ohio Schools Program.

### **School counselor training in building and construction trades**

The bill revises the requirement that school counselors serving students in any of grades 7-12 complete four hours of training in building and construction trades career pathways every five years. Instead, under the bill, a school counselor serving those grades who was licensed prior to the bill's effective date must complete that training within five years of that date and a newly licensed school counselor must complete it within five years of initial licensure.

Within five years of completing the initial training at a building and construction trades training facility, and every five years thereafter, a school counselor must either repeat that training or certify to a local professional development committee that the counselor has spent a minimum of four hours doing one or more of the following:

1. Touring local career-technical education facilities and investigating program offerings, as well as possible student apprenticeship, internship, and employment opportunities for each program;
2. Meeting with local JobsOhio staff and reviewing local business needs; in-demand job fields; and apprenticeship, internship, and employment opportunities for each local in-demand field;
3. Participating in or helping host a career exploration opportunity for students with local businesses, including local employers of in-demand jobs.

The bill clarifies that those training alternatives count toward meeting professional development activity requirements for renewal of a school counselor license in the same way as the training at a building and construction trades training facility does under continuing law.

Finally, the bill eliminates the exemption that permits a school counselor who begins working with students in any of grades 7-12 in the last two years of the counselor's five-year license renewal cycle to complete the training during the following renewal cycle.<sup>27</sup>

### **Professional administrator licensure fees**

The bill establishes a fee of \$150 to obtain or renew a professional administrator license for individuals who complete the Bright New Leaders for Ohio Schools Program. Under continuing law, the State Board of Education generally has the authority to establish the fees for each type of educator license.<sup>28</sup> In the most recent year, the State Board set the fee for a professional administrator license at \$200.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> R.C. 3319.2213.

<sup>28</sup> R.C. 3319.51(B). See also R.C. 3319.272, not in the bill.

<sup>29</sup> See the State Board of Education's [Licensure Fees](http://sboe.ohio.gov/educator-licensure) page, which is available on the State Board's website: [sboe.ohio.gov/educator-licensure](http://sboe.ohio.gov/educator-licensure).

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

- Specifies that if the Director of Environmental Protection discontinues the E-Check Program as authorized under current law, the Director must immediately rescind any rule associated with the program, including rules that govern the certification of inspectors and repair technicians.

### **E-Check inspectors and repair technicians**

The bill specifies that if the Director of Environmental Protection discontinues the E-Check Program, as authorized under current law, the Director must immediately rescind any rule associated with the program, including rules that govern both of the following:

1. The certification of inspectors under the program; and
2. The certification of repair technicians, including waiver repair technicians, under the program.

Currently, the E-Check program is a motor vehicle emissions testing program that operates in seven counties in Northeast Ohio. The Director is required to immediately discontinue the program if the U.S. EPA determines that it is not necessary for Ohio or any area of Ohio to comply with the federal Clean Air Act.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> R.C. 3704.14.

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

### Environmental health specialist requirements

- Modifies the educational and employment requirements that an applicant must meet to apply to register as an environmental health specialist (EHS).
- Increases the amount of time, from four years to five years, within which an EHS in training must register as an EHS.

### Certified radiation experts

- Eliminates the radiation expert certificate issued by the Director of Health for an individual to conduct oversight and maintenance of a hospital's quality assurance program.
- Codifies the national board certification or minimum education, training, and work experience requirements established by current administrative rule for an individual to be issued a radiation expert certificate as the qualifications required for an individual to be designated by a hospital as a certified radiation expert.

### Environmental health specialist requirements

The bill modifies the educational and employment requirements that an applicant must meet to apply to register as an environmental health specialist (EHS) as follows:

1. For an applicant who qualifies by virtue of graduating from an accredited college or university with a baccalaureate degree:
  - a. Clarifies that the required amount of science course units (at least 45 quarter units or 30 semester units) may include courses in life sciences, natural sciences, physical sciences, health sciences, or public health sciences;
  - b. Removes the requirement that the Director of Health (ODH Director) approve the science course units; and
  - c. Decreases the number of years of full-time employment as an EHS that must be completed from two years to one year.
2. For an applicant who qualifies by virtue of graduating from an accredited college or university with at least a baccalaureate degree and completed a major in environmental health science that included an approved internship program, decreases the amount of time of full-time employment as an EHS that must be completed from one year to six months.
3. For an applicant who qualifies by virtue of graduating from an accredited college or university with a degree higher than a baccalaureate degree:
  - a. Clarifies that the required amount of science course units (at least 45 quarter units or 30 semester units) may include courses in life sciences, natural sciences, physical sciences, health sciences, or public health sciences; and

- b. Removes the requirement that the ODH Director approve the science course units.<sup>31</sup>

The bill also increases the amount of time, from four years to five years, within which an EHS in training must register as an EHS.<sup>32</sup>

### **Certified radiation experts**

Continuing law requires hospitals to develop a quality assurance program for all sources of radiation-generating equipment. A hospital must designate a certified radiation expert to conduct oversight and maintenance of the hospital's quality assurance program. The bill repeals the requirement that the ODH Director issue a certificate as a radiation expert to an individual authorizing the individual to conduct that oversight and maintenance.<sup>33</sup> Instead, a certified radiation expert must meet one of the qualifications in the bill, and the hospital must maintain a record of its designation and the expert's qualifications.<sup>34</sup>

The bill codifies the requirements established by current administrative rule for an individual to be issued a radiation expert certificate as the qualifications required for an individual to be designated by a hospital as a certified radiation expert. Under the bill and the rule, to oversee a quality assurance program, an individual must either (1) possess a valid, unexpired certification from the American Board of Radiology, American Board of Medical Physics, or Canadian College of Physicists in Medicine, or (2) an appropriate master's or doctorate degree, training, and work experience.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> R.C. 3776.05(B).

<sup>32</sup> R.C. 3776.05(C)(2).

<sup>33</sup> R.C. 3748.01 and 3748.04; R.C. 3748.12 and 3748.121, repealed, with conforming changes in R.C. 3701.83, 3748.11, and 3748.16.

<sup>34</sup> R.C. 3748.13.

<sup>35</sup> R.C. 3748.131 and O.A.C. 3701:1-66-03.

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## STATE MEDICAL BOARD

- Reduces licensure fee amounts for the following practitioners regulated by the State Medical Board: physicians holding special activity certificates, physician assistants, dietitians, and radiologist assistants.

### Licensing fee amounts

The bill reduces licensure fee amounts for several types of practitioners regulated by the State Medical Board. Each practitioner type and reduced fee amounts are described below.

#### Physicians holding special activity certificates

The bill reduces the fee associated with a physician special activity certificate and establishes limits on the number of times a certificate may be sought within a two-year period. Under current law, the Medical Board may issue such a certificate to a nonresident physician seeking to practice medicine in conjunction with a special activity, event, or program taking place in Ohio. As part of applying for a certificate, an applicant must pay a \$125 fee. The certificate entitles the holder to practice for the shorter of 30 days or the duration of the special activity. The certificate may not be renewed.<sup>36</sup>

The bill reduces the certificate's fee to \$75, while also requiring the fee to be paid only if the applicant expects to be compensated for practicing medicine in conjunction with the activity, event, or program. It limits an individual from applying for a special activity certificate to not more than 12 times within a consecutive two-year period. In doing so, the bill eliminates current provisions requiring the Medical Board to adopt rules specifying how often an applicant may be granted a special activity certificate.<sup>37</sup> Under current rules, an individual may apply for a special activity certificate only six times within a consecutive two-year period.<sup>38</sup>

#### Physician assistants

The bill reduces to \$150 (from \$400) the fee for an initial license to practice as a physician assistant.<sup>39</sup> It also reduces the license's biennial renewal fee to \$150 (from \$200).<sup>40</sup>

#### Dietitians

The bill reduces to \$95 (from \$225) the fee for an initial license to practice as a dietitian and lowers to \$95 (from \$180) its renewal fee.<sup>41</sup> Ohio law also recognizes a limited permit, authorizing practice for an individual who has the met academic and pre-professional

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<sup>36</sup> R.C. 4731.294(C) and (E).

<sup>37</sup> R.C. 4731.294(G).

<sup>38</sup> See O.A.C. 4731-6-33(E).

<sup>39</sup> R.C. 4730.10(B).

<sup>40</sup> R.C. 4730.14(A).

<sup>41</sup> R.C. 4759.08(A)(1).

requirements for dietitian licensure and is planning to sit for the next available examination.<sup>42</sup> The bill reduces to \$50 (from \$65) the fee for an initial permit and for its renewal.<sup>43</sup>

### **Radiologist assistants**

For a license to practice as a radiologist assistant, the bill sets an initial application fee of \$100 and a renewal fee of \$100.<sup>44</sup> In establishing those fees, the bill eliminates the current law requirement that fees be specified in Medical Board rule.<sup>45</sup> Under existing rules, licensure fees are set at the following amounts: \$200 for an initial application and \$200 for a renewal.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>42</sup> R.C. 4759.06(G), not in the bill.

<sup>43</sup> R.C. 4759.08(A)(2).

<sup>44</sup> R.C. 4774.03(A) and 4774.06(A).

<sup>45</sup> R.C. 4774.11(B).

<sup>46</sup> See O.A.C. 4774-1-02(B) and 4774-1-03(A)(2).

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## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

### Commercial nuisance wild animal control services

- Revises the law governing the licensure and certification of persons conducting commercial nuisance wild animal control services, by doing the following:
  - Requiring any individual who provides nuisance wild animal removal or control services for hire to obtain a license, instead of requiring only a business or individual who supervises employees to obtain such a license;
  - Extending the license duration from one year to three years;
  - Decreasing the license fee from \$40 every year as under current law to \$25 every three years; and
  - Modifying the Chief of the Division of Wildlife’s rulemaking authority governing the nuisance wild animal controller certification course.

### Fish wholesaler permit fee

- Lowers the fee for the issuance of an annual permit to handle commercial fish at wholesale from \$65 to \$50.

### Commercial bird shooting preserve license fee

- Lowers the fee for the issuance of an annual commercial bird shooting preserve license from \$200 to \$150.

### Mine foreperson and foreperson of nongaseous mines certification

- Eliminates the mine foreperson and foreperson of nongaseous mines certifications issued by the Chief of the Division of Mineral Resources Management and the requirement to successfully pass the accompanying examinations.

### Shot firer and fire boss

- Eliminates outdated references to certification of and examinations for shot firers and fire bosses.

### Commercial nuisance wild animal control services

#### Licensure

Current law requires individuals and businesses that provide nuisance wild animal removal or control services for hire to obtain an annual license to do so from the Chief of the Division of Wildlife (the “commercial nuisance wild animal control operator” license). The Chief may issue the license to either a business or an individual who conducts removal or control services. A licensed operator may then employ nonlicensed individuals to conduct nuisance wild animal control services on behalf of the licensed operator.

The bill changes the name of the “commercial nuisance wild animal control operator” license to the “commercial nuisance wild animal controller” license. It also requires *any individual* (including the employees of a licensed controller) who provides nuisance wild animal removal or control services for hire to obtain a commercial nuisance wild animal controller license instead of requiring only a business or individual who supervises employees to obtain the license.

The bill also extends the license duration from annually, as under current law, to three years, and eliminates the specified renewal date, which currently is prior to March 1 every year. Additionally, it decreases the license fee from \$40 every year to \$25 every three years.

Because the bill now requires each employee to be licensed, it eliminates current law’s specification that an operator that holds a license is responsible for the acts of each of the operator's employees in the removal or control of a nuisance wild animal.<sup>47</sup>

## **Certification**

Current law also generally requires a commercial nuisance wild animal control operator (controller under the bill) and any employee, including a nonlicensed employee, who is engaged in activities that are related to the removal or control of nuisance wild animals to obtain a certificate for completing a course on appropriate methods for controlling nuisance wild animals. The course must comply with rules adopted by the Chief. The Chief must include in the rules minimum contents of the course, who may conduct the course, and a requirement that an operator and employee must pass an examination to receive a certificate. A certificate is valid for three years.

The bill retains the requirement that all individuals engaged in the business of removing or controlling nuisance wild animals complete the three-year certification, but modifies the Chief’s rulemaking authority governing the nuisance wild animal controller certification course by doing all the following:

- Requiring the Chief to ensure that the course is provided via the internet;
- Prohibiting the Chief from charging a fee for the course or the associated examination; and
- Eliminating the requirement that the rules specify who may conduct the course.<sup>48</sup>

## **Fish wholesaler permit fee**

The bill lowers the fee for the issuance of an annual permit to handle commercial fish at wholesale from \$65 to \$50. Current law requires any person who handles commercial fish, or other fish that may be bought or sold, at wholesale, to obtain a permit to handle such fish from the Chief of the Division of Wildlife.<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> R.C. 1531.40.

<sup>48</sup> R.C. 1531.40.

<sup>49</sup> R.C. 1533.631.

## Commercial bird shooting preserve license fee

The bill lowers the fee for the issuance of an annual commercial bird shooting preserve license from \$200 to \$150. Current law requires a person who owns or operates a commercial bird shooting preserve to obtain a commercial bird shooting preserve license from the Chief of the Division of Wildlife.<sup>50</sup>

## Nongaseous mines certifications

The bill eliminates the mine foreperson and foreperson of nongaseous mines certifications and the requirement to successfully pass the accompanying examinations. Current law requires an individual who desires to be a mine foreperson of nongaseous mines to apply for a certificate to do so. It also requires an individual who desires to be a foreperson of nongaseous mines to apply for a certificate to do so. The bill eliminates requirements and procedures governing the application for and the issuance of both certificates. According to those requirements for mine foreperson and foreperson of nongaseous mines, an applicant for either certificate must have at least three years' actual experience in mines or an equivalent and have knowledge of the dangers and nature of noxious gases. An applicant for either certificate must pass the appropriate examination to be certified and pay a fee in an amount determined by the Chief of the Division of Mineral Resources Management.<sup>51</sup>

## Shot firer and fire boss

The bill eliminates outdated references to certification of and examinations for shot firers and fire bosses. H.B. 96 of the 136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (main operating budget for FY 2026 and FY 2027) eliminated the qualifications for individuals to be fire bosses and shot firers. It also eliminated a requirement that the Chief of the Division of Mineral Resources Management conduct examinations for those positions and issue certificates to applicants who pass their examinations.<sup>52</sup>

## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-04-25
Reported, H. General Government	11-18-25
Passed House (91-0)	11-19-25

ANHB0059PH-136/sb

<sup>50</sup> R.C. 1533.72.

<sup>51</sup> R.C. 1561.13, 1561.17, repealed, 1561.23, and 1565.04.

<sup>52</sup> R.C. 1561.11, 1561.15, 1561.26, 1563.24, 1565.05, and 1565.06.