



OHIO BUILDING OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION



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CHAPTER
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The Honorable Terry Johnson
Chair, Senate Workforce & Higher Education Committee
1 Capitol Sq Fl 2
Columbus OH 43215-4275
Via e-mail Tara.Marasco@ohiosenate.gov & Zachary.DeCamp@ohiosenate.gov

SUBJECT: Opposition Testimony on SB 131, Require Occupational License if Experienced in Another State

1. Introduction. Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Williams, and members of the committee. My name is Charles Huber and I serve on the Ohio Building Officials' Association (OBOA) Legislative & By-laws Committee. Thank you for allowing me to submit this Opposition Testimony on Senate Bill 131 (SB 131). OBOA is a professional organization consisting of over 1,000 members most of whom administer construction and fire rules. Our membership includes private sector architects, professional engineers, other construction designers, and construction contractors. Our members include employees and officials in State government. However, my testimony has been neither specifically coordinated nor endorsed by any State government employee or official.
2. SB 131. SB 131 enacts Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 4796 which directs Ohio state level and political subdivision (county, city, township, and local health district) licensing authorities to issue a license or government certification generally to persons holding an out-of-state occupational license without regard to whether the non-Ohio state grants similar licensing procedures in their state to persons holding an Ohio license/certification. SB 131 at Line:
 - a. 7465 modifies ORC 3737.83(C) pointing to proposed ORC 4796 regarding certification of fire protection equipment installers
 - b. 8635 enacts ORC 3781.10(E)(14) pointing to proposed ORC 4796 regarding the certification of persons administering the State's construction rules.
 - c. 8812 enacts ORC 3781.102(J) pointing to proposed ORC 4796 regarding boards of county commissioners licensing of electrical contractors; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) contractors; refrigeration contractors; hydronics contractors; and plumbing contractors.

- d. 8862 enacts ORC 3781.105(G) regarding the certification of fire protection system designers.
 - e. 18751 enacts ORC 4765.55(G) pointing to proposed ORC 4796 regarding certification of fire safety inspectors.
 - f. 19295 enacts ORC 4781.07(D) pointing to proposed ORC 4796 regarding certification of manufactured home installation inspectors.
3. Discussion/OBOA Position. Sponsor testimony shows the intent is to remove the undesirable effects of deterring persons qualified to perform professions/occupations outside Ohio from bringing their talent to Ohio. Sponsor testimony also states SB 131 increases access to these professional/occupational services by Ohio's public. However, OBOA holds that extending this procedure to persons licensed/certified out-of-state without requiring the non-Ohio state extend similar service to Ohio licensed/certified persons creates an unfair labor and business environment. OBOA characterizes SB 131 in its present form as "half-reciprocity." OBOA would support legislation directing Ohio licensing agencies to implement full reciprocity where the non-Ohio states extend similar service to Ohio licensed/certified persons. Feel free to direct questions to me at e-mail chuber@fboa.org or (M) 330-389-2954.