

1 AN ACT concerning regulation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Comprehensive Licensing Information to Minimize Barriers Task
6 Force Act.

7 Section 5. Declaration of public policy.

8 (a) The State finds that persons from historically and
9 economically disadvantaged groups have been directly and
10 indirectly excluded from opportunity and shared prosperity and
11 that it is in the public policy interest of the State to foster
12 an environment where all people, particularly those
13 equity-focused populations subjected to arbitrary barriers,
14 have the freedom to create their own path to success and
15 self-actualization.

16 (b) The State also finds that the freedom and access to
17 opportunities needed to achieve one's highest potential
18 through a lawful occupation is critically important to the
19 well-being of people in the State, and that the right to pursue
20 a lawful occupation is a fundamental right of all people.

21 (c) Therefore, it is in the public policy interest of the
22 State to minimize and remove unnecessary, arbitrary, and
23 ineffective barriers to employment and economic prosperity

1 that disproportionately exclude persons from historically and
2 economically disadvantaged groups.

3 (d) The General Assembly finds that occupational licensing
4 procedures and programs can unintentionally erect costly
5 barriers to employment for low-income persons, persons who
6 identify as black, indigenous, and people of color, formerly
7 convicted or incarcerated persons, women, and other
8 historically and economically disadvantaged populations.

9 (e) It is in the public policy interest of the State to
10 ensure that costly, unnecessary personal qualification
11 requirements or procedures in current occupational licensing
12 policies are minimized or removed in order to expand equitable
13 access to employment opportunities for persons in historically
14 and economically disadvantaged populations.

15 Section 10. Definitions. As used in this Act:

16 "Department" means the Department of Financial and
17 Professional Regulation.

18 "Low-income and middle-income licensed occupations" means
19 any licensed occupation regulated by the Department where the
20 average annual income of those employed in the occupation in
21 this State is equal to or less than the median annual income
22 for residents of this State as determined by the 2020 United
23 States Census.

24 "Task Force" means the Comprehensive Licensing Information
25 to Minimize Barriers Task Force.

1 Section 15. Task Force.

2 (a) The Comprehensive Licensing Information to Minimize
3 Barriers Task Force is hereby created within the Department of
4 Financial and Professional Regulation.

5 (b) Within 60 days after the effective date of this Act,
6 the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint the
7 chairperson of the Task Force and the President of the Senate
8 shall appoint the vice-chairperson.

9 (c) Within 90 days after the appointment of the
10 chairperson and vice-chairperson, the chairperson and
11 vice-chairperson of the Task Force shall unanimously appoint
12 the following members of the Task Force:

13 (1) one representative from a nonprofit organization
14 that focuses on workforce development;

15 (2) one representative from a nonprofit organization
16 that focuses on reintegrating citizens returning from a
17 period of incarceration;

18 (3) one member of the public that works in a
19 low-income or middle-income licensed occupation and holds
20 an active license in good standing who has faced barriers
21 to employment through licensure, who may be recommended by
22 the member described in paragraph (1);

23 (4) one member of the public that works in a
24 low-income or middle-income licensed occupation and holds
25 an active license in good standing who has faced barriers

1 to employment through licensure specifically due to a
2 period of incarceration, who may be recommended by the
3 member described in paragraph (2);

4 (5) one member who holds an advanced degree and is an
5 expert in the field of licensing, workforce development,
6 or labor economics and is currently either a member of the
7 faculty at an accredited college or university in this
8 State or conducting related research through a research
9 institute affiliated with an accredited college or
10 university in this State; and

11 (6) one member who holds an advanced degree and is an
12 expert in the field of public health and safety regulation
13 and is currently either a member of the faculty at an
14 accredited college or university in this State or
15 conducting related research through a research institute
16 affiliated with an accredited college or university in
17 this State.

18 (d) Within 90 days after the appointment of the
19 chairperson and vice-chairperson, the following members shall
20 be appointed to the Task Force:

21 (1) the Secretary of Financial and Professional
22 Regulation, or the Secretary's appointed designee;

23 (2) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
24 House of Representatives; and

25 (3) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
26 Senate.

1 (e) Members of the Task Force shall serve without
2 compensation, but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses
3 incurred in the performance of their duties from funds
4 appropriated for that purpose.

5 (f) The Department shall provide administrative support to
6 the Task Force.

7 (g) Within 60 days after the final selection and
8 appointment of the members of the Task Force, the chairperson
9 shall convene the first meeting of the Task Force.

10 (h) Meetings of the Task Force shall be held monthly, with
11 at least 30 days between the previous meeting and the upcoming
12 meeting. Meetings shall be posted publicly.

13 Section 20. Report.

14 (a) The Task Force shall conduct an analysis of
15 occupational licensing, including, but not limited to,
16 processes, procedures, and statutory requirements for
17 licensure administered by the Department. The findings of this
18 analysis shall be delivered to the General Assembly, the
19 Office of Management and Budget, the Department, and the
20 public in the form of a final report. For the purpose of
21 ensuring that historically and economically disadvantaged
22 populations are centered in this analysis, the Task Force
23 shall identify low-income and middle-income licensed
24 occupations in this State and aggregate the information from
25 those occupations under the occupations' respective regulatory

1 board overseen by the Department to form the basis of the
2 report.

3 (b) The report shall contain, to the extent available,
4 information collected from sources including, but not limited
5 to, the Department, department licensure boards, other State
6 boards, relevant departments, or other bodies of the State,
7 and supplementary data including, but not limited to, census
8 statistics, federal reporting, or published research as
9 follows:

10 (1) the number of license applications submitted
11 compared with the number of licenses issued;

12 (2) data concerning the reason why licenses were
13 denied or revoked and a ranking of the most common reasons
14 for denial or revocation;

15 (3) an analysis of the information required of license
16 applicants by the Department compared with the information
17 that the Department is required by statute to verify, to
18 ascertain if applicants are required to submit superfluous
19 information;

20 (4) demographic information for the last 5 years of
21 (i) active license holders, (ii) license holders who were
22 disciplined in that period, (iii) license holders whose
23 licenses were revoked in that period, and (iv) license
24 applicants who were not issued licenses;

25 (5) data aggregated from the last 5 years of monthly
26 enforcement reports, including a ranking of the most

1 common reasons for public discipline;

2 (6) the cost of licensure to the individual,
3 including, but not limited to, the fees for initial
4 licensure and renewal, the average cost of training and
5 testing required for initial licensure, and the average
6 cost of meeting continuing education requirements for
7 license renewal;

8 (7) the locations within this State of each program or
9 school that provides the required training and testing
10 needed to obtain or renew a license, and whether the
11 required training and testing can be fulfilled online;

12 (8) the languages in which the required training or
13 testing is offered;

14 (9) the acceptance rates, graduation rates, and
15 dropout rates of the training facilities that provide
16 required training;

17 (10) the percentage of students at each school that
18 offers required training who financed the required
19 training through student loans; and

20 (11) the average annual salary of those in the
21 occupation.

22 (c) The final report shall also contain a general
23 description of the steps taken by the Task Force to fulfill the
24 report criteria and shall include in an appendix of the report
25 any results of the Task Force's analysis in the form of graphs,
26 charts, or other data visualizations. The Task Force shall

1 also exercise due care in the reporting of this information to
2 protect sensitive information of personal or proprietary value
3 or information that would risk the security of residents of
4 this State.

5 (d) The Task Force shall publish the final report by
6 December 1, 2023 with recommendations to the General Assembly,
7 including recommendations for continued required reporting
8 from the Department to better support the General Assembly in
9 revoking, modifying, or creating new licensing Acts.

10 Section 90. Repeal. This Act is repealed December 1, 2024.

11 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
12 becoming law.