

INFORMATION SHEET
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON NEW LICENSING BOARDS

Committee Structure: 4 Senators; 4 Representatives; chairmanship alternates between House and Senate.

Purpose: To determine whether an occupation should be licensed based on the following:

- Whether the unregulated practice of the profession can endanger public health, safety, or welfare.
- Whether the practice of the occupation possesses qualities that distinguish it from ordinary labor, or whether it requires specialized skill or training.
- Whether a majority of the public has the knowledge or experience to evaluate the practitioner's competence, and whether the public can be effectively protected by other means.
- Whether licensure would have a substantial adverse economic impact on consumers.

The bill cannot be considered in a standing committee until the Occupational Licensing Committee has issued its report.

Procedure: After a bill is introduced proposing to license an occupation:

1. The bill sponsor is sent a questionnaire to complete.
2. The questionnaire is returned to staff.
3. Staff prepares a preliminary draft report for the Committee to consider.
4. The Committee meets and votes on the proposal. Although the Committee may evaluate the bill itself in terms of clarity, conciseness, and conformity with existing law and principles of administrative law, it normally does not put forth a committee substitute or make amendments to the bill.

Assessment Reports: The Committee's assessment report makes specific findings for each of the areas listed above under "Purpose". The report also includes an explanation of the bill, the response to the questionnaire, and any other additional information the Committee deems appropriate.

Timeframe for Making the Report:

Preliminary Report: The Committee has 60 days to issue its preliminary assessment report after the Committee receives the request. However, the 60-day time period does not begin until the questionnaire is returned.

Final Report: The Committee must adopt its final assessment report at the final meeting, and the report must be issued within 14 days of the issuance of the preliminary report or 21 days if the Committee wishes to further review the responses to the preliminary assessment report.

Effect of an Unfavorable Assessment Report: An unfavorable assessment report by the Committee does not bar further consideration of the proposal either in committee or on the floor.