

Minutes

RED TAPE REDUCTION WORKING GROUP (RTRWG)

Monday, March 26, 2018

10:00 A.M.

Room 138, State Capitol

Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee Members Present

Senator John Cooper, Co-Chair, Representative Bruce Cozart, Co-Chair; Senators Jane English and Trent Garner; Representatives LeAnne Burch, Milton Nicks, Jeff Williams, and Richard Womack; Brian Bowen, Attorney General's Office; Dr. Charisse Childers, Arkansas Career Education (ACE); Lula Dixon, Retired Licensed Social Worker (LSW)/Consumer Representative; Bill Gossage, Governor's Office; and Bob Kucheravy, Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC)/Consumer Representative.

Committee Members Absent

Senators Bart Hester and Missy Irvin; Daryl Bassett, Arkansas Department of Workforce Services (ADWS); and Leon Jones, Arkansas Department of Labor (ADOL)

Representative Cozart called the meeting to order, recognized the new RTRWG member Brian Bowen of the Arkansas Attorney General's Office and allowed for introduction.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to accept and approve the minutes from the February 21, 2018 RTRWG meeting. The motion was unanimously approved by the working group.

Presentation by Dr. Derek Slagle

Dr. Derek Slagle presented information about the history of occupational licensing and the current state of licensing/regulation both nationally and in Arkansas. Key points included:

- The need to reduce workforce barriers has received bipartisan interest;
- There has been a noted increase in the number of licensed occupations over the last 60+ years;
- Licensing is not inherently negative or positive; but rather it may require a balanced assessment of benefit vs. risk to determine levels of appropriateness;
- Vulnerable populations may be disproportionately affected by licensing, e.g. military, military spouses, immigrants and those with criminal records.

- Negative impacts are more prominent in low/middle income jobs, making the topic highly relevant to Arkansas;
- Licensing can negatively impact distance learners and remote workers;
- Sunrise and sunset reviews employ an examination of benefit vs. risk; however, sunset reviews rarely result in lesser restrictions and sunrise reviews are more successful in restricting licensure growth.

Additionally, Dr. Slagle informed the RTRWG that data regarding occupational regulations in Arkansas is inconsistent, and he stated he is working to create an accurate, uniform database. He is also creating a survey instrument for the Advisory Group to be used to assess their perceptions and interests with regard to occupational regulations in Arkansas. Discussion followed regarding:

- Reciprocity vs. compacts;
- Scope of the initiative;
- Average number of days of education (689) required in Arkansas;
- Concern over the 5-6 fold increase in licensing in the last 60+ years;
- Potential for creating a standard for all licenses/regulations to be reviewed;
- Potential for anti-trust issues;
- Barriers for immigrants in the state; and
- Prevalence of a morality clause by Arkansas licensing entities and its effects on those with criminal records.

Other Business

Discussion was held about scheduling the RTRWG meetings on Monday mornings. The Advisory Group may have the 9:00 a.m. time slot should they choose to convene ahead of the RTRWG meeting.

Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting for the RTRWG was scheduled for Monday, April 23, 2018, at 10:00 a.m.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.