

Minutes

RED TAPE REDUCTION WORKING GROUP (RTRWG)

Monday, June 18, 2018

10:00 A.M.

Big Mac Building

5th Floor Room-B

Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee Members Present

Senator John Cooper, Co-Chair, Representative Bruce Cozart, Co-Chair; Senators Jane English, Bart Hester, and Trent Garner; Representatives LeAnne Burch, Milton Nicks, and Richard Womack; Director Daryl Basset, Arkansas Department of Workforce Services (ADWS); Director Leon Jones, Arkansas Department of Labor(DOL), Dr. Charisse Childers, Arkansas Career Education (ACE); Bill Gossage, Governor's Office; and Bob Kucheravy, Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC)/Consumer Representative.

Committee Members Absent

Senator Missy Irvin, Representative Jeff Williams, Ms. Lula Dixon, and Mr. Brian Bowen

Rep. Bruce Cozart called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

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

Occupational Licensure Barriers to Employment for Vets and Military Spouses

Don Berry with the Arkansas Veterans Coalition provided information as follows:

- As of February 2018, there were twenty-five national and local veteran service organizations and more than 220,000 veterans and military families;
- There are approximately 60,000 veterans in the workforce today;
- 51% of military spouses are in occupations that require a license;
- It is critical that we elevate the quality of life of current and former service members and promote the values, strengths and skills of our service members to bring them back to Arkansas and allow them to contribute to the Arkansas economy and our communities;
- The focus should be on skill transfer, because they will go where they see the best opportunity to use their skills;

- Reenlistment is commonly impacted by any issues a spouse may have in finding employment in their chosen field, because their ability to find work is fundamental to the family's financial well-being;
- Of significance is the fact that the quality of area schools and reciprocity for service members and their families is now a consideration as the military makes future determinations on military basing;
- It would be beneficial for Boards and Commissions to have the authority to issue temporary licenses. Discussion followed.
- Other items mentioned in Mr. Berry's presentation were the U S President's executive order "Enhancing Non-competitive Civil Service Appointments of Military Spouses and Council of Economic Advisors (May 9, 2018) and the University of Minnesota Study assessing Arkansas actions taken.

Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) Educators Licensing Process

Melissa Jacks, ADE Coordinator for Educator Licensure, (Ms. Jacks filled in for Cheryl Reinhart, ADE Division Director for Educator Licensure, who was unable to attend) provided a report that included the following:

- Overview of the ADE structure and the previously used AR Educator Licensure System (AELS) and description of the changes made to allow for a new system in the way data is received and processed;
- The new process includes an online application, document upload feature, instantaneous access for licensure advisors to all documents, response and status feature, limited scanning and improved customer service. The overall goal is to become completely paperless;
- The time needed for a potential teacher to receive a license has been reduced as a result of these changes; and
- They currently have reciprocal agreements with all 50 states for standard teacher licenses, offering provisional licenses. Discussion followed.

Occupational Licensure Barriers to Employment for those with Criminal Records

Carrie Williams of Arkansas Community Correction (ACC) provided a report that included the following:

- Arkansas has an estimated 60,000 individuals currently on active supervision within the criminal justice system, and approximately 57% of those are employed;
- Programs are offered to individuals while they are incarcerated to provide vocational training. The Think Legacy Program is a 20 hour training provided to inmates within one to two years of their release date. A list of programs ACC offers was presented;
- It is a struggle to educate the individuals on the barriers they face to finding work;
- Many licensing entities maintain extremely vague moral character clauses. Some other states have begun to address this issue and remove such clauses;
- It costs approximately \$24,000/year to incarcerate an individual compared to \$8,000/year to educate that same individual for an occupation, assuming barriers could be removed; and

- Removing barriers and training/educating these individuals will ultimately lower recidivism rates. Discussion followed.

Occupational Licensing Advisory Group (OLAG) Report

Gary Isom, OLAG Chairman, provided an update on the group's ongoing work.

- OLAG is continuing its work to define licensing vs. certifications vs. registration, as well as public health, welfare & safety;
- A proposed questionnaire to be sent out to licensing entities was provided, and discussion followed.
- The OLAG will meet again on June 20, 2018.

Selection of Entities to Report

RTRWG members were asked to submit via email to Robin Voss robin.voss@arkansashouse.org a list of three licensing entities they wish to attend the next meeting. The list should be in priority order. Of those, three or four entities will be asked to attend the July 17, 2018, meeting.

Other Business

The next meeting will be Tuesday July 17, 2018, 10:00 am, Big Mac Building, 5th Floor, Room-B. *(Following this meeting, it was decided the July 17th meeting would begin at 9:00 a.m.)*
With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:45 a.m.