

## Minutes

### RED TAPE REDUCTION WORKING GROUP (RTRWG)

Monday, August 20, 2018

9:00 A.M.

Big Mac Building

5<sup>th</sup> Floor Room-B

Little Rock, Arkansas

#### **Committee Members Present**

Senator John Cooper, Co-Chair, Representative Bruce Cozart, Co-Chair; Senators Bart Hester, Trent Garner and Jane English; Representatives LeAnne Burch, Milton Nicks, Jeff Williams and Richard Womack; Director Leon Jones, Arkansas Department of Labor (DOL), Ms. Lula Dixon (LSW), Mr. Bill Gossage, Governor's Office and Deputy Attorney General Brian Bowen

#### **Committee Members Absent**

Senator Missy Irvin, Mr. Daryl Bassett, Mr. Bob Kucheravy, and Dr. Charisse Childers

Rep. Cozart called the meeting to order.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made and seconded to accept and approve the minutes from the July 17, 2018, RTRWG meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### **Advisory Group Update From Gary Isom**

The Occupational Licensing Advisory Group (OLAG) reported the following information:

- Responses to the 51 question questionnaire from licensing agencies and boards have been great. The target date for completed surveys remains August 24, 2018.
- OLAGs goal is to have a draft executive summary to report to the RTRWG at the September RTRWG Meeting.
- OLAG formed four new committees to focus on the following:
  - Legislation in other states;
  - Executive summary and report to the RTRWG;
  - Compilation of survey responses; and
  - Past legislation in Arkansas.

#### **Arkansas State Board of Architects, Landscape Architects and Interior Designers — Kingsley Glasgow, Director; Brooks Jackson, Board President; and Bill Hall, Board Member**

Mr. Glasgow presented the following points:

- Board of Interior Designers was established in 1941, Act 270, to provide a safeguard for the public;
- In 2009 Architects, Landscape Architects and Interior Designers boards were merged as the occupations are very similar;

- Regulations received a comprehensive rewrite in recent years to reduce barriers to licensure. Fees were reduced and/or eliminated at that time as funds were considered to be stable;
- Architects and landscape architects are required to obtain a license. Interior designers may voluntarily register to use the title Registered Interior Designer.

Discussion followed regarding:

- Clarification of differences/similarities between landscape architects and landscape “yard-workers”;
- Approach to dealing with criminal backgrounds;
- Suggestion of developing a uniform listing of prohibited offenses, including time lapse following offenses in which a person may then be considered for licensure; and
- Licensing for military and military spouses and the expedited application processing and waiver of licensure fees already offered by the Board.

**Arkansas Veterinary Medical Examining Board - Cara Tharp, Director; and Doug Parker, Board Member**

Ms. Tharp presented the following:

- The agency currently issues licenses to Veterinarians and Veterinary Technicians.
- Veterinarians are required to obtain a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from an accredited college of veterinary medicine. Veterinary Technicians are required to obtain a degree from an accredited higher education program (an associate degree is acceptable). Embryo Transfer Technicians do not have an educational requirement.

Discussion followed regarding:

- Barriers that have been identified for potential removal with regard to Veterinary Technician licensing to allow for reciprocity, as reciprocity is already being provided for Veterinarians;
- The role and responsibilities carried out by Veterinary Technicians;
- Processes for recording and processing of complaints;
- the Embryo Transfer Bill of 2017 and the Board’s response/action taken as a result of the legislation; and
- the high fee for the Veterinary Technician exam.

**Arkansas Department of Labor Elevator Safety Board - Denise Oxley, General Counselor and Greg Tipton, Chief Elevator Inspector**

Ms. Oxley provided the following information:

- The Elevator Safety Board oversees a small licensing program consisting of three licenses (contractors, inspectors, and mechanics) and have less than 300 licensees;
- There is no application fee;
- Criminal background checks are not required;
- Only one exam is needed and passed to obtain an elevator inspector’s license;
- There are no educational requirements, but there are experience and examination requirements for elevator inspectors and elevator mechanics;
- Proof of insurance is required for elevator inspectors; and
- In recent review of regulations, a barrier was identified involving required experience that is out of line with national standards and is being addressed.

Discussion followed regarding:

- Recent safety-related incidents involving elevators;
- Inspection rules and backlog of inspections;
- Elevator monitoring and maintenance responsibilities; and
- Years of experience required for licensure.

**Arkansas Department of Labor Board of Electrical Examiners—Denise Oxley, General Counsel; Charles Covington, Chief Electrical Inspector; and Ed Carrington, Board Member**

Ms. Oxley also shared the following information:

- The Electrical Examiners Board issues the following licenses for electricians: Master, Residential Master, Journeyman, Residential Journeyman, and Air Conditioning Electrician;
- There is a Restricted Lifetime Master Electrician license available to those 65 years of age or older who have been licensed 12 years or more;
- Fees for the first year of licensure ranges from \$25.00 to \$50.00;
- The cash fund balance as of June 30, 2018 was \$862,690;
- The initiation of online licensing renewals has resulted in a 200% increase in renewals;
- They are presently working towards an online initial license application; and
- They have the ability to extend temporary licenses past one year if warranted.

Discussion followed regarding:

- Sensibility of combining oversight of plumbing, construction and electrician licenses; and
- Funds in the fund balance currently must be limited to administration of licenses, inspections, etc. Authorization would be required in order to use funds for continuing education for licensees.

**Other Business**

The next group of entities to appear before the RTRWG will soon be finalized. The next meeting will be Monday September 17, 2018, 9:00 am, Big Mac Building, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room-B.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:45 a.m.