

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 of Illinois finds that persons from  
9 historically and economically disadvantaged groups have been  
10 directly and indirectly excluded from opportunity and shared  
11 prosperity and that it is in the public policy interest of the  
12 State to foster an environment where all people, particularly  
13 those equity-focused populations subjected to arbitrary  
14 barriers, have the freedom to create their own path to success  
15 and 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 Illinois, 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) The General Assembly also finds that its Members do  
10 not receive enough objective, actionable information for the  
11 purpose of effectively legislating regarding occupational  
12 licensing programs, procedures, funding, administration, or  
13 reporting overseen by the Department of Financial and  
14 Professional Regulation.

15 (f) It is in the public policy interest of the State to  
16 ensure that costly, unnecessary personal qualification  
17 requirements or procedures in current occupational licensing  
18 policies are minimized or removed in order to expand equitable  
19 access to employment opportunities for persons in historically  
20 and economically disadvantaged populations.

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

22 "Department" means the Department of Financial and  
23 Professional Regulation.

24 "Low-income and middle-income licensed occupations" means  
25 any licensed occupation regulated by the Department where the

1 average annual income of those employed in the occupation in  
2 this State is equal to or less than the median annual income  
3 for residents of this State as determined by the 2020 United  
4 States Census.

5 "Task force" means the Comprehensive Licensing Information  
6 to Minimize Barriers Task Force.

7 Section 15. Task force.

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

11 (b) Within 60 days after the effective date of this Act,  
12 the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint the  
13 chairperson of the task force and the President of the Senate  
14 shall appoint the vice-chairperson.

15 (c) Within 90 days after the appointment of the  
16 chairperson and vice-chairperson, the chairperson and  
17 vice-chairperson of the task force shall unanimously appoint  
18 the following members of the task force:

19 (1) one representative from a nonprofit organization  
20 that focuses on workforce development;

21 (2) one representative from a nonprofit organization  
22 that focuses on reintegrating citizens returning from a  
23 period of incarceration;

24 (3) one member of the public that works in a  
25 low-income or middle-income licensed occupation and holds

1 an active license in good standing who has faced barriers  
2 to employment through licensure, who may be recommended by  
3 the member described in item (1);

4 (4) one member of the public that works in a  
5 low-income or middle-income licensed occupation and holds  
6 an active license in good standing who has faced barriers  
7 to employment through licensure specifically due to a  
8 period of incarceration, who may be recommended by the  
9 member described in item (2);

10 (5) one member who holds an advanced degree and is an  
11 expert in the field of licensing, workforce development,  
12 or labor economics and is currently either a member of the  
13 faculty at an accredited college or university in this  
14 State or conducting related research through a research  
15 institute affiliated with an accredited college or  
16 university in this State; and

17 (6) one member who holds an advanced degree and is an  
18 expert in the field of public health and safety regulation  
19 and is currently either a member of the faculty at an  
20 accredited college or university in this State or  
21 conducting related research through a research institute  
22 affiliated with an accredited college or university in  
23 this State.

24 (d) Within 90 days after the appointment of the  
25 chairperson and vice-chairperson, the following members shall  
26 be appointed to the task force:

1           (1) the Director of Financial and Professional  
2 Regulation, or his or her appointed designee;

3           (2) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
4 House of Representatives; and

5           (3) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
6 Senate.

7           (e) Members of the task force shall serve without  
8 compensation, but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses  
9 incurred in the performance of their duties from funds  
10 appropriated for that purpose.

11          (f) The Department shall provide administrative support to  
12 the task force.

13          (g) Within 60 days after the final selection and  
14 appointment of the members of the task force, the chairperson  
15 shall convene the first meeting of the task force.

16          (h) Meetings of the task force shall be held monthly, with  
17 at least 30 days between the previous meeting and the upcoming  
18 meeting. Meetings shall be posted publicly.

19           Section 20. Report.

20          (a) The task force shall conduct an analysis of  
21 occupational licensing, including, but not limited to,  
22 processes, procedures, and statutory requirements for  
23 licensure administered by the Department. The findings of this  
24 analysis shall be delivered to the General Assembly, the  
25 Office of Management and Budget, the Department, and the

1 public in the form of a final report. For the purpose of  
2 ensuring that historically and economically disadvantaged  
3 populations are centered in this analysis, the task force  
4 shall identify low-income and middle-income licensed  
5 occupations in this State and aggregate the information from  
6 those occupations under their respective regulatory boards  
7 overseen by the Department to form the basis of the report.

8 (b) The report shall contain information from each  
9 licensing board as follows:

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

12 (2) data concerning why licenses were denied or  
13 revoked and a ranking of the most common reasons for  
14 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 both initiating an enforcement action  
2 and the enforcement action taken;

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (c) The final report shall also contain a general  
24 description of the steps taken by the task force to fulfill the  
25 report criteria and shall include in an appendix of the report  
26 any results of the task force's analysis in the form of graphs,

1 charts, or other data visualizations. The task force shall  
2 also exercise due care in the reporting of this information to  
3 protect sensitive information of personal or proprietary value  
4 or information that would risk the security of residents of  
5 this State.

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

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

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