

By: Harrison

H.B. No. 794

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to limitations on the enforcement of certain occupational regulations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Title 1, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Chapter 2 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 2. LIMITATION ON ENFORCEMENT OF CERTAIN OCCUPATIONAL REGULATIONS

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 2.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "License" means a nontransferable and exclusive authorization issued by a licensing authority authorizing an individual, based on the established personal qualifications, to engage in a particular occupation.

(2) "Licensing authority" means a department, commission, board, office, or other agency of this state or a political subdivision of this state that issues a license, specialty occupational license for medical reimbursement, registration, certificate, permit, or other authorization related to an occupation.

(3) "Occupational regulation" means any regulation, rule, policy, fee, condition, test, permit, administrative practice, or other provision in which a licensing authority establishes the personal qualifications necessary to engage in any

1 occupation or profession. The term does not include a license.

2 (4) "Personal qualifications" means criteria related
3 to an individual's personal background and characteristics related
4 to eligibility for a license including:

5 (A) educational attainment;

6 (B) passage of an examination;

7 (C) work experience;

8 (D) character; and

9 (E) criminal history.

10 (5) "Specialty occupational license for medical
11 reimbursement" means a nontransferable authorization to perform a
12 medical service that is:

13 (A) required for an individual to be eligible to
14 receive payment or reimbursement from a governmental agency or
15 other entity for providing medical services; and

16 (B) issued by a licensing authority to an
17 individual who meets the established personal qualifications.

18 (6) "Welfare" means an action to protect the public
19 against fraud or harm. The term does not include an action to
20 protect an existing public or private entity against competition.

21 Sec. 2.002. POLICY. It is the policy of this state that all
22 occupational regulations must be limited to those demonstrably
23 necessary and carefully tailored to fulfill legitimate public
24 health, safety, and welfare objectives.

25 Sec. 2.003. REVIEW REQUIRED. (a) Not later than September
26 1, 2026, each licensing authority shall conduct a comprehensive
27 review of each occupational regulation applicable to a license

1 issued by the authority and for each occupational regulation:

2 (1) specify the public health, safety, or welfare
3 objective served by the regulation and the reason the regulation is
4 necessary to serve each objective;

5 (2) analyze, based on any available information, the
6 effects of the regulation on:

7 (A) opportunities for workers;

8 (B) consumer choices and costs;

9 (C) general unemployment;

10 (D) market competition;

11 (E) governmental costs; and

12 (F) other related measures; and

13 (3) compare the regulation with how the applicable
14 business or profession is regulated in other states.

15 (b) A licensing authority shall for any occupational
16 regulation determined during a review under Subsection (a) to
17 violate the policy provided by Section 2.002:

18 (1) repeal the regulation or modify the regulation to
19 conform to the policy provided by Section 2.002, if the authority is
20 authorized by law to do so; or

21 (2) recommend that the legislature repeal the
22 regulation or take any other action necessary to modify the
23 regulation to conform to the policy provided by Section 2.002.

24 (c) Not later than December 1, 2026, each licensing
25 authority shall submit to the legislature a report summarizing any
26 actions taken by the authority under Subsection (b)(1) and any
27 recommendations made under Subsection (b)(2).

1 (d) This section expires September 1, 2027.

2 SUBCHAPTER B. ENFORCEMENT

3 Sec. 2.051. PETITION FOR REPEAL OR MODIFICATION. (a) A
4 person may petition a licensing authority to repeal or modify an
5 occupational regulation applicable to a license issued by the
6 authority if the regulation violates the policy provided by Section
7 2.002.

8 (b) Not later than the 90th day after the date a licensing
9 authority receives a petition under Subsection (a), the authority
10 shall:

11 (1) repeal the regulation;

12 (2) modify the regulation to conform to the policy
13 provided by Section 2.002;

14 (3) state the reasons the authority has determined
15 that the regulation does not violate the policy provided by Section
16 2.002; or

17 (4) notify the petitioner that the authority is not
18 authorized under law to repeal or modify the regulation.

19 Sec. 2.052. INJUNCTIVE RELIEF. (a) A person may bring an
20 action for an injunction against the enforcement of an occupational
21 regulation in a district court in Travis County or any county in
22 which the regulation is enforced.

23 (b) A person is entitled to relief from an occupational
24 regulation if the court finds by a preponderance of evidence that
25 the occupational regulation on its face or in its effect burdens the
26 entry into a profession or occupation and:

27 (1) the licensing authority is unable to prove by a

1 preponderance of evidence that the regulation is not demonstrably
2 necessary and carefully tailored to fulfill legitimate public
3 health, safety, or welfare objectives; or

4 (2) if the regulation is necessary to the legitimate
5 public health, safety, or welfare objectives as demonstrated under
6 Subdivision (1), the objective can be effectively served by using a
7 less restrictive regulation that is less burdensome to economic
8 opportunity.

9 (c) In determining whether an occupational regulation is
10 less restrictive for purposes of Subsection (b)(2), the following
11 list represents regulations from least restrictive to most
12 restrictive:

13 (1) market competition;

14 (2) ratings or reviews from consumers or third
15 parties;

16 (3) private certification;

17 (4) voluntary bonding or insurance;

18 (5) existence of a specific private cause of action to
19 remedy a consumer harm;

20 (6) a law prohibiting deceptive trade practices;

21 (7) a requirement for mandatory disclosure to a
22 consumer of attributes of a specific good or service;

23 (8) a restriction on the process of providing a
24 specific good or service to a consumer;

25 (9) inspection requirements;

26 (10) a requirement that an individual obtain a bond or
27 insurance;

1 (11) a statute, rule, or policy requiring registration
2 with a licensing authority;

3 (12) a statute, rule, or policy requiring
4 certification by a licensing authority;

5 (13) a specialty occupational license for medical
6 reimbursement; and

7 (14) a statute, rule, or policy requiring licensing by
8 a licensing authority.

9 (d) The court shall award to a plaintiff who prevails under
10 this section reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

11 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.