A Mountain of Regulation?: Assessing Barriers to Work in West Virginia

Introduction:

Occupational licensing laws require the citizens of West Virginia to obtain a permission slip from Charleston to work. To obtain the permission slip, citizens must complete minimum levels of training and education, pay fees, pass exams, and meet additional entry requirements. Is occupational licensing presenting Mountaineers with an unnecessary mountain of regulation to climb to obtain employment? We compare occupational licensing requirements for 64 occupations in West Virginia to the bordering states of Ohio and Pennsylvania. Initial licensing fees, renewal fees, the number of exams required, continuing education requirements, and good moral character requirements are compared. We classify barriers as high if 3 or more occupational licensing requirements are higher in West Virginia than in both Ohio and Pennsylvania. We classify barriers as similar if 2 occupational licensing requirements are higher in West Virginia than in both Ohio and Pennsylvania. We classify barriers as low if 1 or no licensing requirement is higher in West Virginia than in both Pennsylvania and Ohio. We find that:

- 25 of the 64 compared occupations have high barriers in West Virginia.
- Initial licensing and renewal fees are more than 8% higher in West Virginia than in Ohio and Pennsylvania. In fact, initial licensing fees in West Virginia on average are more than double than Pennsylvania.

39% High Barriers
39% of the compared occupations have high barrier to entry

30% Similar Barriers
30% of the compared occupations have similar barrier to entry

31% Low Barriers
31% of the compared occupations have low barrier to entry

Initial Licensing Fees 7.7% above average

- Average of all 64 occupations compared

Renewal Licensing Fees 8% above average

- Renewal fees are scaled on a 2 year renewal cycle
## Occupations with Low Barriers
- Advanced Practice Registered Nurse
- Auctioneer
- Cemetery Salesperson
- Certified Nurse Midwife
- Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Clinical Social Worker
- Dietitian/Nutritionist
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Engineer in Training
- Funeral Director
- Nursing Home Administrator
- Pharmacist
- Pharmacist Authorization to Administer Injections
- Pharmacy Intern
- Professional Engineer
- Professional Fundraising Counsel
- Professional Solicitors
- Psychologist
- Real Estate Instructors
- Respiratory Therapist

## Occupations with Similar Barriers
- Athletic Trainer
- Certified Real Estate Appraiser Trainee
- Chiropractor
- Cosmetologist
- Dental Hygienist
- Dentist
- Embalmer
- Funeral Resident Intern
- Hearing Aide Dealer
- Landscape Architect
- MD Physician/Surgeon
- Nurse Anesthetist
- Physical Therapist Assistant
- Professional Counselor
- Professional Land Surveyor
- Radiologic Technologist
- Real Estate Salesperson
- Social Worker
- Vehicle Salesperson

## Occupations with High Barriers
- Acupuncturist
- Apprentice Auctioneer
- Associate Broker
- Audiologist
- Barber
- Barber Teacher
- Broker (standard)
- Certified General Appraiser
- Certified Residential Real Estate Advisor
- Cosmetology Teacher
- Certified Public Accountant
- Crane Operator
- Esthetician
- Family-Marriage Therapist
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Massage Therapist
- Nail Technician
- Occupational Therapist
- Occupational Therapist Assistant
- Optometrist
- Optometrist -Therapeutics
- Osteopath Physician
- Public Dental Health Practitioner
- Radiologic Technologist
- Registered Architect

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