



www.lsc.ohio.gov

OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

Synopsis of Senate Committee Amendments

(This synopsis does not address amendments that may have been adopted on the Senate Floor.)

H.B. 238 of the 135th General Assembly

Senate Government Oversight

Kelly Bomba, Attorney

Occupational regulation review

Requires that an occupational licensing board be triggered to expire on December 31 of the sixth year after it was created or last renewed, rather than on that date or on December 31, 2024, whichever is later, as under current law.

Renews the Motor Vehicle Repair Board.

Accountancy Board

Certified public accountant certificate

Beginning January 1, 2026, does all of the following:

- Eliminates a requirement that the Accountancy Board adopt rules specifying graduate degrees that satisfy the education requirement for a certificate to be a certified public accountant (CPA), but retains a requirement that the Board adopt rules identifying appropriate subjects.
- Eliminates a requirement that the Board waive CPA educational requirements for an individual who has four years of relevant experience, who possesses an associate degree (or a nonapproved baccalaureate degree), and who passes a special examination.
- Requires all candidates for a CPA certificate to possess a baccalaureate, master's, or higher degree (thus eliminating the ability of an individual who holds an associate's degree and meets other requirements from obtaining a certificate).
- Eliminates a requirement that, to be a Board-approved degree, the degree must include successful completion of 150 semester hours of undergraduate or graduate education.
- Requires an individual seeking a CPA certificate who possesses a baccalaureate degree to have two years of relevant accounting experience, instead of one year if the individual holds a baccalaureate degree that includes 150 semester hours of higher education

(eliminated by the amendment) or four years if the individual holds any other baccalaureate degree and obtains a waiver (eliminated by the amendment).

- Allows a candidate for a CPA certificate enrolled in a Board-approved education program to take the CPA examination before satisfying education or experience requirements, provided the candidate is within 180 days of completing the program when the candidate registers for the examination (current law requires the candidate to have graduated with a baccalaureate or a higher degree that includes successful completion of at least 120 hours of higher education).

Certified public accountant interstate mobility

Allows a CPA certified by another state with an office in another state to act as an Ohio CPA without obtaining an Ohio certificate and permit if the CPA has obtained a baccalaureate or higher degree, has completed an educational program with an accounting concentration, and has passed all parts of the uniform CPA examination (currently the CPA must be certified in a state with “substantially equivalent” CPA requirements as determined in rules adopted by the Board).

Corrects outdated cross references to Ohio’s limited liability company laws.

Department of Agriculture

Agricultural commodity tester

Regarding agricultural commodity tester provisions revised by the House-passed version, clarifies that an agricultural handler may contract with an individual to conduct agricultural commodity testing.

Regarding the House-passed version’s requirement that a licensed agricultural commodity handler submit a list of individuals who conduct commodity testing on behalf of the handler, requires the Director, upon receipt of that list, to issue an official grader’s identification number to each such individual.

Internet sales exemption from auction laws

Alters the existing licensure exemption under the Auctioneers Law for auctions conducted via an auction mediation company (e.g., eBay) by specifying that the exemption applies to all sales of personal property, provided that the auction mediation company provides a fraud protection or money-back guarantee to the buyer of the property being sold.

Eliminates the following stipulations from the existing exemption:

- That exempt sales are limited to \$10,000 per calendar year; and
- That the person conducting the sale cannot receive any compensation for sales made on behalf of another person.

Casino Control Commission

Requires the Ohio Casino Control Commission to set the key employee license application fee at no more than \$1,750, instead of no more than \$5,000 under the House-passed version.

Department of Commerce – Division of Real Estate and Professional Licensing

Extends the duration of a general real estate appraiser certificate and residential real estate appraiser license from one to two years.

Expands a continuing law provision that allows the Department of Higher Education, in consultation with the Division of Real Estate, to perform a review of programs offered by an institution of higher education to satisfy the education requirements for real estate broker and salesperson licensure to allow the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools with respect to an institution that offers a certificate program to perform such a review.

Requires, for a course to be considered an eligible course under the bill to meet the education requirements for licensure as a real estate broker or salesperson, that the course's design and delivery method be certified by the Association of Real Estate License Law Officials, the International Distance Education Certification Center, or another certifying body if the institution of higher education offering the course is approved by the State Board of Career Colleges and Schools under continuing law to offer only certificate programs through distance education.

Reduces the total initial education hours required under current law for a real estate salesperson license from 120 to 100 hours as follows:

- Reduces the hours of instruction on the topic of real estate appraisal (if the applicant does not have an Ohio real estate appraisal license or certificate) from 20 to 10 hours;
- Reduces the hours of instruction on the topic of real estate finance from 20 to 10 hours.

State Cosmetology and Barber Board

- Expands the services that a licensed natural hair stylist can provide to include arranging, dressing, pressing, curling, cutting, or singeing hair and styling wigs or hairpieces.
- Removes the requirement that an applicant for a boutique services registration have undergone formal training or an apprenticeship in boutique services.
- Eliminates the requirements that a boutique services registrant perform shampooing under a licensed individual's supervision and in preparation for a service from that individual.

Board of Nursing

Doula certification title protection

Prohibits a person from using or assuming the title "state of Ohio certified doula" unless the person holds a certificate issued by the Board of Nursing, rather than the title "certified doula" as under current law.

Eliminates the existing law provision that requires the members of the Board of Nursing's Doula Advisory Group to select the group's chairperson from among the group's members and instead requires the group member who represents the Board of Nursing to serve as the chair.

Website employer reporting

Authorizes the Board of Nursing to display on its website the names of persons or governmental entities that employ nurses holding multistate licenses and that have reported to the Board, as required by current law, the number of those nurses the persons or entities employ.

Authorizes the Board to update the list annually to reflect any changes in employer reporting.

Department of Public Safety – Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Removes a reference that would prohibit licensed motor vehicle dealers from knowingly engaging in any wholesale motor vehicle transaction with a salesperson.

State Racing Commission

Clarifies that the State Racing Commission (RAC) may issue occupational licenses only for the positions explicitly listed in the bill, and that no RAC license is required to hold any position not listed.

Eliminates proposed language that would have exempted new RAC administrative rules adopted under the bill during the first year after the bill takes effect from the Revised Code's general limits on agency regulatory restrictions.

Ohio Housing Finance Agency membership

Adds to the Ohio Housing Finance Agency four nonvoting members: two members of the Senate (one from each major political party), and two members of the House of Representatives (one from each major political party), to be appointed by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House, respectively.

Sunset Review

Abolishes or renews various agencies that are subject to expiration under Sunset Review Law.

Requires the Early Childhood Advisory Council to assume the responsibilities of the abolished Child Care Advisory Council.

Abolishes the Board of Directors of the Ohio Health Reinsurance Program, and repeals various healthcare programs, which have been under suspension since 2014 following the enactment of the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Abolishes the Supervisory Investigative Panel of the State Dental Board, by name and requires the Secretary and Vice-Secretary of the Board to continue the panel's supervisory functions.

Requires the State Dental Board to elect, from among its members, a Vice-President.

Exempts certain agencies from future review and expiration under Sunset Review Law.

Renames the Environmental Education Council the Ohio Environmental Education Fund Advisory Council.

Abolishes the Director of Health's Advisory Group on Violent Deaths, and requires the Director to prepare and publish an annual report summarizing the activities of the Ohio violent death reporting system.

Abolishes the Ohio Medical Quality Foundation on January 1, 2026, and requires the Treasurer of State to assume the contractual duties of the Foundation and its trustees.