HOUSE BILL 522

AN ACT establishing a committee to review occupational licensing to determine which licenses could be made optional for practitioners.


COMMITTEE: Executive Departments and Administration

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a committee to review occupational licensing to determine which licenses could be made optional for practitioners.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in **bold italics.** Matter removed from current law appears [in brackets and struckthrough.] Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.
AN ACT establishing a committee to review occupational licensing to determine which licenses could be made optional for practitioners.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 Committee Established. There is established a committee to review occupational licensing to determine which licenses could be made optional for practitioners.

2 Membership and Compensation.

   I. The members of the committee shall be as follows:

      (a) Four members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

      (b) Two members of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

   II. Members of the committee shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to the duties of the committee.

3 Duties.

   I. The committee shall review New Hampshire occupational and professional licensing laws to determine which licenses could be made optional for practitioners. The review shall include:

      (a) Development of a scale of risk to consumers for each licensed industry or occupation based on real data as opposed to anecdotal arguments.

      (b) Identification of industries or occupations licensed in New Hampshire that are not licensed in other states.

      (c) Determination of which licensing schemes, if any, are used to keep out competition as opposed to protecting consumers from actual harm, thereby raising costs, restricting choice, and artificially raising barriers to entry for new competition.

   II. Based on the committee's findings, the committee shall:

      (a) Decide which licensing schemes, if any, should be made optional for practitioners.

      (b) Develop a mechanism for mandatory disclosure to consumers when a practitioner has chosen not to be licensed.

      (c) Provide a mechanism of enforcement if the disclosure to consumers is not properly made by an unlicensed practitioner.

      (d) Develop the necessary legislation to accomplish the committee's findings.

4 Chairperson; Quorum. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-named house member. The first meeting of the committee shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Four members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.
Report. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2017.

Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.