

Department of Labor & Industry



Title 37 Reform: Myths vs. Facts

Representative Bill Mercer, HD 46

RED TAPE RELIEF

- MYTH:** Licensed professionals will lose their title protection or professional standing.
- FACT:** HB152 proposes to insert title protection at the beginning of Title 37 – covering all professions licensed under this Title.
- MYTH:** Delicensing means you can no longer work in your profession.
- FACT:** People in a profession being delicensed will be able to continue working in the profession, they just will not have to wait for the government to provide them with an additional piece of paper.
- MYTH:** People presently licensed will lose their license.
- FACT:** 7 license types (out of 190) are proposed for de-licensing. Meaning that 7 professions will no longer require a license to operate. Those 7 professions make up 386 people (0.3% of all licensees in Montana).
- MYTH:** Moving to a board-administered program means there will no longer be any enforcement of safety standards for that profession.
- FACT:** 16% of all licensing is currently done through a program. All licenses have the same legislatively derived requirements and process for filing whether it is reviewed by a board or a program.
- MYTH:** Standardized Purpose Statements reduce a licensee’s standing in the profession.
- FACT:** Of the 50 professions the Department of Labor & Industry licenses, 19 do not have purpose statements. The purpose of this reform is to replace current purpose statements with a standardized statement that covers all licensed professions.
- MYTH:** Licensing boards make all application decisions. So, if no board existed, no decisions could be made.
- FACT:** Licensing boards only end up seeing non-routine applications, which amounts to about 22 applications per year per board. A program can review these non-routine applications in the same manner as a board.

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