



UTAH | COMMERCE

Division of Professional Licensing

Licensing as a Barrier to Entry

Mark Steinagel, Director
Division of Professional Licensing
Utah Department of Commerce



Licensing As A Barrier To Entry



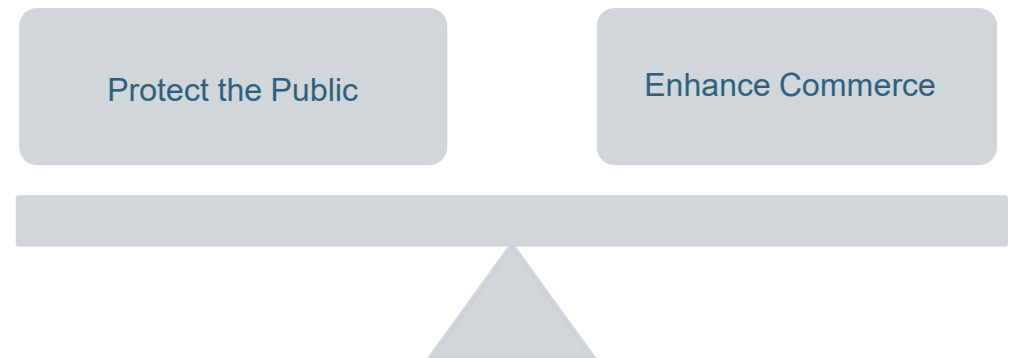
Licensing Barriers and Licensing Reform: Four Stages

- Pre-2015
 - Slow change, but burgeoning interest from lawmakers
- 2015-2022
 - Significant change, with increasing impact to consumers and economy
- Since 2022
 - Rapid change, with increasing impact, predictability, and reliability
- Future
 - Innovation and reform as the new normal



Licensing Barriers and Licensing Reform: Pre-2015

- Governor Huntsman and Herbert
 - “Reduce unnecessary business regulation”
- Legislature: Slow Change, but Burgeoning Interest
 - Military spouses
 - Physicians/Pharmacists
 - Rigid scopes of practice
 - Exemptions from licensure
- Protect the Public and Enhance Commerce
- Clayton V. Steinagel



Licensing Barriers and Licensing Reform: 2015-2022

- Significant change, with increasing impact to consumers and economy
 - Access to licensure for those with a criminal history
 - Balancing of regulation through the opioid crisis
 - Drug offenses and treatment for public and licensed professionals
 - Adoption of interstate licensing compacts to increase worker mobility
 - SB 23: Utah's version of licensure mobility
 - Specific profession reform: contractors
- FTC v. North Carolina Dental Board: US Supreme Court
- White House Council of Economic Advisors Report
- Legislative/Executive Branch Licensing Consortium*
- Governor Cox Inauguration Day Executive Order/Commerce Study



Licensing Barriers and Licensing Reform: Since 2022

- Rapid change, with increasing impact, predictability, and reliability
- Utah Department of Commerce [OPLR Recommendation](#)
- Bipartisan Interest
- Workforce Shortages
- Refugees
- Foreign Credentialing: 2022, SB 43; 2023, SB 35
- Underserved Populations: HB 250
- Mental Health Crisis: First OPLR Study



Licensing Barriers and Licensing Reform: Future Considerations

- “Right-sizing” Regulation is Ongoing Effort
- Accelerating, Non-partisan Reform
- OPLR: Resources to Innovate
 - Predictably
 - Reliably
 - Apolitically
- Consumer/Patient Access: Type of Public Protection
- Utah Leadership in Economy and Licensing Reform
- Executive and Legislative Branches Working Closely Together
- Recklessly Good





Thank you!

