FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 272

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE SOMMER.

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D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 324.001, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to the division of professional registration.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 324.001, RSMo, is repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 324.001 and 621.280, to read as follows:

- 324.001. 1. (1) The purpose of sections 324.001 to 324.1109 is to promote the general welfare by establishing guidelines for the regulation of occupations and professions not regulated prior to January 1, 2018.
- (2) All individuals may engage in the occupation of their choice, free from unreasonable government regulation. The state shall not impose a substantial burden on an individual's pursuit of his or her occupation or profession unless there is an important governmental interest for the state to protect the general welfare. If such an interest exists, the regulation adopted by the state shall be the least restrictive type of regulation, consistent with the public interest to be protected.
- (3) All bills introduced in the legislature to regulate an occupation or profession for the first time shall be reviewed according to the following criteria. An occupation or profession shall be regulated by the state only if:
- (a) Unregulated practice has caused significant harm and endangered the general welfare and the potential for further harm and endangerment is easily recognizable and not remote or dependent upon tenuous argument;
- 16 **(b)** The public needs and can reasonably be expected to benefit from an assurance of initial personal qualifications; and

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 (c) The general welfare cannot be effectively protected by other means.

- (4) After evaluating the criteria in subdivision (3) of this subsection and considering governmental, economic, and societal costs and benefits, if the legislature finds that the state has an important interest in regulating an occupation or profession not previously regulated by law, the least restrictive type of regulation shall be implemented, consistent with the need to protect the general welfare and this section. If:
- (a) Market competition, common law, statutory civil actions, and criminal prohibitions are insufficient to eradicate actual harm, the regulation shall provide for stricter civil actions and criminal prosecutions;
- (b) A service is being performed for individuals that involves a hazard to the general welfare, the regulation shall impose inspection requirements and enable an appropriate state agency to enforce violations by injunctive relief in court including, but not limited to, regulation of the business activity providing the service rather than practitioners;
- (c) The threat to the general welfare resulting from the practitioner's services is relatively small, easily identifiable, or predictable, the regulation shall implement a system of insurance, bonding, or registration;
- (d) The consumer possesses significantly less information so that the practitioner places the consumer in a disadvantageous position relative to the practitioner to judge the quality of the practitioner's services, the regulation shall implement a voluntary system of certification; or
- (e) There is no other type of regulation that will protect the general welfare other than licensing, the regulation shall implement a system of licensing.
 - 2. For the purposes of this section, the following terms mean:
- (1) "Applicant group", any occupational or professional group or organization, any individual, or any other interested party that proposes that any occupation or profession not presently regulated be regulated;
- (2) "Certification", a voluntary program in which the government grants nontransferable recognition to an individual who meets personal qualifications established by a legislative body. Upon approval, the individual may use "certified" as a designated title. Someone who has not been recognized as certified may perform the occupation for compensation lawfully, but shall not use the title "certified". This term shall not be synonymous with an occupational license or prohibit the use of private certification;
- (3) "Department", the department of insurance, financial institutions and professional registration;
 - [(2)] (4) "Director", the director of the division of professional registration; [and]

- 54 [(3)] (5) "Division", the division of professional registration;
- (6) "General welfare", the concern of the government for the health, peace, morality, and safety of its citizens;
 - (7) "Grandfather clause", a provision in a regulatory statute applicable to practitioners actively engaged in the regulated occupation or profession prior to the effective date of the regulatory statute which exempts the practitioners from meeting the personal qualifications set forth in the regulatory statute to perform prescribed occupational tasks;
 - (8) "Inspection" the periodic examination of practitioners by a state agency in order to ascertain whether the practitioners' activities are being carried out in a fashion consistent with the requisite level of cleanliness necessary to protect the general welfare;
 - (9) "Lawful occupation", a course of conduct, pursuit, or profession that includes the sale of goods or services that are not themselves illegal to sell irrespective of whether the individual selling them is subject to an occupational regulation;
 - (10) "Least restrictive type of occupational regulations", in order from least to most restrictive:
 - (a) Market competition;
 - (b) A provision for private civil action to remedy consumer harm;
- 72 (c) Criminal sanction;
- 73 (d) Regulation of the business activity providing the service rather than the 74 practitioner;
- 75 (e) Inspection;

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- (f) Bonding or insurance;
- (g) Registration;
- 78 **(h) Certification**;
- 79 (i) Occupational license;
 - (11) "Legislative committees of reference", the standing legislative committees designated by the respective rules committees of the senate and house of representatives to consider proposed legislation to regulate occupations or professions not previously regulated;
 - (12) "Occupational license", a nontransferable authorization in law for an individual to perform a lawful occupation for compensation based on meeting personal qualifications established by a legislative body. It shall be prohibited for an individual who does not possess an occupational license to perform the occupation for compensation;

(13) "Occupational regulation", a statute, ordinance, rule, practice, policy, or other law requiring an individual to possess certain personal qualifications to work in a lawful occupation;

- (14) "Personal qualifications", criteria related to an individual's personal background, including completion of an approved educational program, satisfactory performance on an examination, work experience, criminal history, moral standing, and completion of continuing education;
- (15) "Practitioner", an individual who has achieved knowledge and skill by practice and is actively engaged in a specified occupation or profession;
- (16) "Public member" an individual who is not currently, and has never been in the past, a member or spouse of a member of the occupation or profession being regulated or an individual who does not currently have and has never in the past had a material financial interest in either the rendering of the occupation or professional service being regulated, or an activity directly related to the occupation or profession being regulated;
 - (17) "Registration", a requirement established by the legislature in which a person:
 - (a) Submits notification to a state agency; and
 - (b) May use "registered" as a designated title.

Notification may include the person's name and address, the person's agent for service of process, the location of the activity to be performed, and a description of the service the person provides. Registration may include a requirement to post a bond but does not include education or experience requirements. Nonregistered persons may not perform the occupation for compensation or use "registered" as a designated title. The term registration shall not be synonymous with an occupational license and does not refer to or prohibit the use of private registration;

- (18) "Regulatory entity", any board, commission, agency, division, or other unit or subunit of state government which regulates one or more professions, occupations, industries, businesses, or other endeavors in this state;
- (19) "State agency", every state office, department, board, commission, regulatory entity, and agency of the state, and, if provided by law, programs and activities involving less than the full responsibility of a state agency;
- (20) "Substantial burden", a requirement in an occupational regulation that imposes significant difficulty or cost on an individual seeking to enter into or continue in a lawful occupation and is more than an incidental burden.
- 122 [2.] 3. After January 1, 2018, applicant groups shall explain each of the following 123 factors to the extent requested by the legislative committees of reference:

124	(1) A definition of the problem and why regulation is necessary including, but not
125	limited to:
126	(a) The description and quantification of the actual harm to the general public due
127	to the fact that the occupation or profession is not regulated;
128	(b) The extent to which the actual harm could be avoided;
129	(c) A description of how consumers will benefit in the future from the proposed
130	type of regulation; and
131	(d) The extent of autonomy a practitioner has, as indicated by:
132	a. The extent to which the occupation or profession calls for independent judgment
133	and the extent of skill or experience required in making the independent judgment; and
134	b. The extent to which practitioners are supervised;
135	(2) The efforts made to address the actual harm caused:
136	(a) Voluntary efforts, if any, by members of the occupation or profession to:
137	a. Establish a code of ethics; or
138	b. Help resolve disputes between practitioners and consumers; and
139	(b) Recourse to and the extent of use of applicable law and whether it could be
140	strengthened to control the problem;
141	(3) The alternatives considered including, but not limited to:
142	(a) Increased civil or criminal sanctions;
143	(b) Regulation of businesses rather than practitioners;
144	(c) Regulation of the service or training program rather than the individual
145	practitioners;
146	(d) Inspections;
147	(e) Bonding or insurance;
148	(f) Registration of all practitioners;
149	(g) Certification of all practitioners;
150	(h) Other alternatives;
151	(i) Why the use of the alternatives specified in this subdivision would not be
152	adequate to protect the general welfare; and
153	(j) Why licensing would serve to protect the general welfare;
154	(4) The benefit to the public if regulation is granted;
155	(5) The extent to which the incidences of specific problems present in the

(6) Whether the public can identify qualified practitioners;

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proposed regulation;

156 unregulated occupation or profession can reasonably be expected to be reduced by

159 (7) The extent to which the public can be confident that qualified practitioners are competent:

- (a) Whether the proposed regulatory entity would be a board composed of members of the profession and public members, a state agency, or both, and, if appropriate, their respective responsibilities in administering the system of inspections, bonding, insurance, registration, certification, or licensure, including the composition of the board and the number of public members, if any; the powers and duties of the board or state agency regarding examinations and for cause revocation, suspension, and nonrenewal of registrations, certificates, or licenses; the promulgation of rules and canons of ethics; the conduct of inspections; the receipt of complaints and disciplinary action taken against practitioners; and how fees would be levied and collected to cover the expenses of administering and operating the regulatory system;
- (b) If there is a grandfather clause, how consumers will be protected from the harm caused by current practitioners that is the basis for advocating for the enactment of the proposed regulation;
- (c) If there is a grandfather clause, if current practitioners will be required to meet the prerequisite qualifications established by the regulatory entity at a later date and if not, why not;
- (d) Whether the regulatory entity would be authorized to enter into reciprocity agreements with other jurisdictions;
- (e) The nature and duration of any training including, but not limited to, whether the training includes a substantial amount of supervised field experience; whether training programs exist in this state; if there will be an experience requirement; whether the experience shall be acquired under a registered, certified, or licensed practitioner; whether there are alternative routes of entry or methods of meeting the prerequisite qualifications; whether all applicants will be required to pass an examination; and, if an examination is required, by whom it will be developed and how the costs of development will be met; and
- (f) What additional training programs are anticipated to be necessary to ensure training is accessible statewide; the anticipated time required to establish the additional training programs; the types of institutions capable of providing the training; a description of how training programs will meet the needs of the expected workforce, including reentry workers, minorities, placebound students, and others;
 - (8) Assurance of the public that practitioners have maintained their competence:
- 192 (a) Whether the registration, certification, or licensure will carry an expiration 193 date; and

(b) Whether renewal will be based only upon payment of a fee, or whether renewal will involve reexamination, peer review, or other enforcement;

- (9) The extent to which regulation might harm the public;
- **(10)** The extent to which regulation will restrict entry into the occupation or 198 profession:
 - (a) Whether the proposed personal qualifications are more restrictive than necessary to ensure safe and effective performance;
 - (b) How the proposed personal qualifications compare to other regulations in the state which may involve greater risks to the general welfare; and
 - (c) The number of other states that regulate the same occupation or profession and how the proposed personal qualifications compare to required personal qualifications in other states that regulate the same occupation or profession;
 - (11) Whether there are similar professions to that of the applicant group which shall be included in, or portions of the applicant group which shall be excluded from, the proposed legislation;
 - (12) The maintenance of personal qualifications;
 - (13) Whether effective quality assurance standards exist in the occupation or profession, such as legal requirements associated with specific programs that define or enforce professional standards, or a code of ethics;
 - (14) How the proposed legislation will ensure:
 - (a) The extent to which a code of ethics, if any, will be adopted; and
 - (b) Grounds for suspension or revocation of registration, certification, or licensure;
 - (15) A description of the group proposed for regulation, including a list of associations, organizations, and other groups representing the practitioners in this state; an estimate of the number of practitioners in each group; and whether the groups represent different levels of practice; and
 - (16) The expected costs of regulation including, but not limited to:
- 221 (a) The impact registration, certification, or licensure will have on the costs of the services to the public;
 - (b) The cost to the state and to the general public of implementing the proposed legislation; and
 - (c) The cost to the state and the members of the group proposed for regulation for the required education, including projected tuition and expenses and expected increases in training programs, staffing, and enrollments at state training institutions.
- 4. Applicant groups shall submit a written report explaining the factors enumerated in subsection 3 of this section to the legislative committees of reference.

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5. A legislative proposal that contains a continuing education requirement shall be accompanied by a detailed explanation of how such requirement could be effective for the profession addressed in the legislation.

- 6. Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a right of action against a private party or to require a private party to do business with an individual who is not licensed, certified, or registered with the government or to create a right of action against the state, county, municipal, or other level of government in the state.
- 7. There is hereby established a "Division of Professional Registration" assigned to the department of insurance, financial institutions and professional registration as a type III transfer, headed by a director appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate. All of the general provisions, definitions and powers enumerated in section 1 of the Omnibus State Reorganization Act of 1974 and Executive Order 06-04 shall apply to this department and its divisions, agencies, and personnel.
- [3.] 8. The director of the division of professional registration shall promulgate rules and regulations which designate for each board or commission assigned to the division the renewal date for licenses or certificates. After the initial establishment of renewal dates, no director of the division shall promulgate a rule or regulation which would change the renewal date for licenses or certificates if such change in renewal date would occur prior to the date on which the renewal date in effect at the time such new renewal date is specified next occurs. Each board or commission shall by rule or regulation establish licensing periods of one, two, or three years. Registration fees set by a board or commission shall be effective for the entire licensing period involved, and shall not be increased during any current licensing period. Persons who are required to pay their first registration fees shall be allowed to pay the pro rata share of such fees for the remainder of the period remaining at the time the fees are paid. Each board or commission shall provide the necessary forms for initial registration, and thereafter the director may prescribe standard forms for renewal of licenses and certificates. Each board or commission shall by rule and regulation require each applicant to provide the information which is required to keep the board's records current. Each board or commission shall have the authority to collect and analyze information required to support workforce planning and policy development. Such information shall not be publicly disclosed so as to identify a specific health care provider, as defined in section 376.1350. Each board or commission shall issue the original license or certificate.
- [4.] 9. The division shall provide clerical and other staff services relating to the issuance and renewal of licenses for all the professional licensing and regulating boards and commissions assigned to the division. The division shall perform the financial management and clerical functions as they each relate to issuance and renewal of licenses and certificates. "Issuance and

renewal of licenses and certificates" means the ministerial function of preparing and delivering licenses or certificates, and obtaining material and information for the board or commission in connection with the renewal thereof. It does not include any discretionary authority with regard to the original review of an applicant's qualifications for licensure or certification, or the subsequent review of licensee's or certificate holder's qualifications, or any disciplinary action contemplated against the licensee or certificate holder. The division may develop and implement microfilming systems and automated or manual management information systems.

- [5.] 10. The director of the division shall maintain a system of accounting and budgeting, in cooperation with the director of the department, the office of administration, and the state auditor's office, to ensure proper charges are made to the various boards for services rendered to them. The general assembly shall appropriate to the division and other state agencies from each board's funds moneys sufficient to reimburse the division and other state agencies for all services rendered and all facilities and supplies furnished to that board.
- [6-] 11. For accounting purposes, the appropriation to the division and to the office of administration for the payment of rent for quarters provided for the division shall be made from the "Professional Registration Fees Fund", which is hereby created, and is to be used solely for the purpose defined in subsection [5] 10 of this section. The fund shall consist of moneys deposited into it from each board's fund. Each board shall contribute a prorated amount necessary to fund the division for services rendered and rent based upon the system of accounting and budgeting established by the director of the division as provided in subsection [5] 10 of this section. Transfers of funds to the professional registration fees fund shall be made by each board on July first of each year; provided, however, that the director of the division may establish an alternative date or dates of transfers at the request of any board. Such transfers shall be made until they equal the prorated amount for services rendered and rent by the division. The provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary notwithstanding, money in this fund shall not be transferred and placed to the credit of general revenue.
- [7-] 12. The director of the division shall be responsible for collecting and accounting for all moneys received by the division or its component agencies. Any money received by a board or commission shall be promptly given, identified by type and source, to the director. The director shall keep a record by board and state accounting system classification of the amount of revenue the director receives. The director shall promptly transmit all receipts to the department of revenue for deposit in the state treasury to the credit of the appropriate fund. The director shall provide each board with all relevant financial information in a timely fashion. Each board shall cooperate with the director by providing necessary information.
- [8-] 13. All educational transcripts, test scores, complaints, investigatory reports, and information pertaining to any person who is an applicant or licensee of any agency assigned to

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302 the division of professional registration by statute or by the department are confidential and may not be disclosed to the public or any member of the public, except with the written consent of 304 the person whose records are involved. The agency which possesses the records or information 305 shall disclose the records or information if the person whose records or information is involved 306 has consented to the disclosure. Each agency is entitled to the attorney-client privilege and 307 work-product privilege to the same extent as any other person. Provided, however, that any 308 board may disclose confidential information without the consent of the person involved in the 309 course of voluntary interstate exchange of information, or in the course of any litigation 310 concerning that person, or pursuant to a lawful request, or to other administrative or law enforcement agencies acting within the scope of their statutory authority. Information regarding 312 identity, including names and addresses, registration, and currency of the license of the persons possessing licenses to engage in a professional occupation and the names and addresses of applicants for such licenses is not confidential information.

- [9-] 14. Any deliberations conducted and votes taken in rendering a final decision after a hearing before an agency assigned to the division shall be closed to the parties and the public. Once a final decision is rendered, that decision shall be made available to the parties and the public.
- [10.] 15. A compelling governmental interest shall be deemed to exist for the purposes of section 536.025 for licensure fees to be reduced by emergency rule, if the projected fund balance of any agency assigned to the division of professional registration is reasonably expected to exceed an amount that would require transfer from that fund to general revenue.
- [44.] 16. (1) The following boards and commissions are assigned by specific type transfers to the division of professional registration: Missouri state board of accountancy, chapter 326; board of cosmetology and barber examiners, chapters 328 and 329; Missouri board for architects, professional engineers, professional land surveyors and landscape architects, chapter 327; Missouri state board of chiropractic examiners, chapter 331; state board of registration for the healing arts, chapter 334; Missouri dental board, chapter 332; state board of embalmers and funeral directors, chapter 333; state board of optometry, chapter 336; Missouri state board of nursing, chapter 335; board of pharmacy, chapter 338; state board of podiatric medicine, chapter 330; Missouri real estate appraisers commission, chapter 339; and Missouri veterinary medical board, chapter 340. The governor shall appoint members of these boards by and with the advice and consent of the senate.
- (2) The boards and commissions assigned to the division shall exercise all their respective statutory duties and powers, except those clerical and other staff services involving collecting and accounting for moneys and financial management relating to the issuance and renewal of licenses, which services shall be provided by the division, within the appropriation

338 therefor. Nothing herein shall prohibit employment of professional examining or testing services

- from professional associations or others as required by the boards or commissions on contract.
- Nothing herein shall be construed to affect the power of a board or commission to expend its
- 341 funds as appropriated. However, the division shall review the expense vouchers of each board.
- 342 The results of such review shall be submitted to the board reviewed and to the house and senate
- 343 appropriations committees annually.

- (3) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the director of the division shall exercise only those management functions of the boards and commissions specifically provided in the Reorganization Act of 1974, and those relating to the allocation and assignment of space, personnel other than board personnel, and equipment.
- (4) "Board personnel", as used in this section or chapters 317, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, and 345, shall mean personnel whose functions and responsibilities are in areas not related to the clerical duties involving the issuance and renewal of licenses, to the collecting and accounting for moneys, or to financial management relating to issuance and renewal of licenses; specifically included are executive secretaries (or comparable positions), consultants, inspectors, investigators, counsel, and secretarial support staff for these positions; and such other positions as are established and authorized by statute for a particular board or commission. Boards and commissions may employ legal counsel, if authorized by law, and temporary personnel if the board is unable to meet its responsibilities with the employees authorized above. Any board or commission which hires temporary employees shall annually provide the division director and the appropriation committees of the general assembly with a complete list of all persons employed in the previous year, the length of their employment, the amount of their remuneration, and a description of their responsibilities.
- (5) Board personnel for each board or commission shall be employed by and serve at the pleasure of the board or commission, shall be supervised as the board or commission designates, and shall have their duties and compensation prescribed by the board or commission, within appropriations for that purpose, except that compensation for board personnel shall not exceed that established for comparable positions as determined by the board or commission pursuant to the job and pay plan of the department of insurance, financial institutions and professional registration. Nothing herein shall be construed to permit salaries for any board personnel to be lowered except by board action.
- [12.] 17. All the powers, duties, and functions of the division of athletics, chapter 317, and others, are assigned by type I transfer to the division of professional registration.
- [13.] 18. Wherever the laws, rules, or regulations of this state make reference to the division of professional registration of the department of economic development, such references shall be deemed to refer to the division of professional registration.

[14-] 19. (1) The state board of nursing, board of pharmacy, Missouri dental board, state committee of psychologists, state board of chiropractic examiners, state board of optometry, Missouri board of occupational therapy, or state board of registration for the healing arts may individually or collectively enter into a contractual agreement with the department of health and senior services, a public institution of higher education, or a nonprofit entity for the purpose of collecting and analyzing workforce data from its licensees, registrants, or permit holders for future workforce planning and to assess the accessibility and availability of qualified health care services and practitioners in Missouri. The boards shall work collaboratively with other state governmental entities to ensure coordination and avoid duplication of efforts.

- (2) The boards may expend appropriated funds necessary for operational expenses of the program formed under this subsection. Each board is authorized to accept grants to fund the collection or analysis authorized in this subsection. Any such funds shall be deposited in the respective board's fund.
- (3) Data collection shall be controlled and approved by the applicable state board conducting or requesting the collection. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 324.010 and 334.001, the boards may release identifying data to the contractor to facilitate data analysis of the health care workforce including, but not limited to, geographic, demographic, and practice or professional characteristics of licensees. The state board shall not request or be authorized to collect income or other financial earnings data.
- (4) Data collected under this subsection shall be deemed the property of the state board requesting the data. Data shall be maintained by the state board in accordance with chapter 610, provided that any information deemed closed or confidential under subsection [8] 13 of this section or any other provision of state law shall not be disclosed without consent of the applicable licensee or entity or as otherwise authorized by law. Data shall only be released in an aggregate form by geography, profession or professional specialization, or population characteristic in a manner that cannot be used to identify a specific individual or entity. Data suppression standards shall be addressed and established in the contractual agreement.
- (5) Contractors shall maintain the security and confidentiality of data received or collected under this subsection and shall not use, disclose, or release any data without approval of the applicable state board. The contractual agreement between the applicable state board and contractor shall establish a data release and research review policy to include legal and institutional review board, or agency-equivalent, approval.
- (6) Each board may promulgate rules subject to the provisions of this subsection and chapter 536 to effectuate and implement the workforce data collection and analysis authorized by this subsection. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it complies

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with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028.

This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general

412 assembly under chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a

413 rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule

414 proposed or adopted after August 28, 2016, shall be invalid and void.

621.280 1. For any new board or commission created after July 1, 2017, and charged with regulating or licensing an occupation or profession, those practitioners actively engaged in the newly regulated occupation or profession for at least one year prior to the effective date of the regulatory statute shall have a property right in their continued legal ability to engage in their occupation or profession.

2. Any decision of a newly created board or commission to refuse licensure to a preexisting practitioner shall be in writing, shall inform the preexisting practitioner of the specific reasons for the denial, and shall inform the preexisting practitioner of his or her right to appeal before a neutral decision-maker at the administrative hearing commission. Any preexisting practitioner denied licensure shall have the right to file an appeal to the administrative hearing commission on his or her license denial within thirty days after the decision of the newly created board or commission. If the preexisting practitioner does not timely appeal, his or her right to continue practicing the occupation or profession shall extinguish immediately. In the event of a timely appeal, the preexisting practitioner's right to practice his or her occupation or profession shall continue until a final decision of the administrative hearing commission. The burden of proof in any hearing under this section shall be on the new board or commission to show that the preexisting practitioner does not meet the requirements of the new regulatory regime.

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