



A Mountain of Regulation?: Assessing Barriers to Work in West Virginia



Introduction:

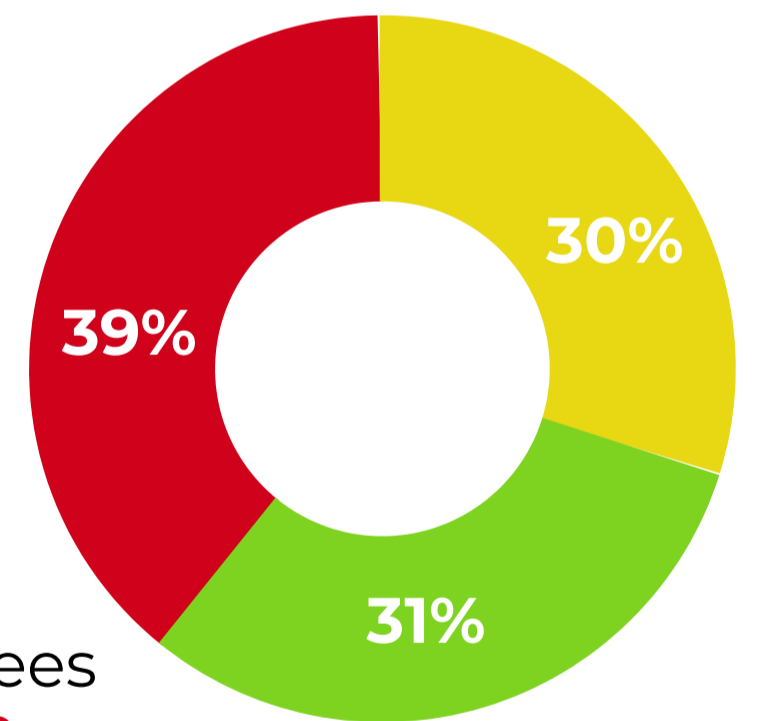
Occupational licensing laws require the citizens of West Virginia to obtain a permission slip from Charleston to work. To obtain the permission slip, citizens must complete minimum levels of training and education, pay fees, pass exams, and meet additional entry requirements. Is occupational licensing presenting Mountaineers with an unnecessary mountain of regulation to climb to obtain employment? We compare occupational licensing requirements for 64 occupations in West Virginia to the bordering states of Ohio and Pennsylvania. Initial licensing fees, renewal fees, the number of exams required, continuing education requirements, and good moral character requirements are compared. We classify barriers as high if 3 or more occupational licensing requirements are higher in West Virginia than in both Ohio and Pennsylvania. We classify barriers as similar if 2 occupational licensing requirements are higher in West Virginia than in both Ohio and Pennsylvania. We classify barriers as low if 1 or no licensing requirement is higher in West Virginia than in both Pennsylvania and Ohio. We find that:

- **25 of the 64** compared occupations **have high barriers in West Virginia.**
- Initial licensing and renewal fees are more than **8% higher in West Virginia** than in Ohio and Pennsylvania. In fact, initial licensing fees in West Virginia on average are more than double than Pennsylvania.

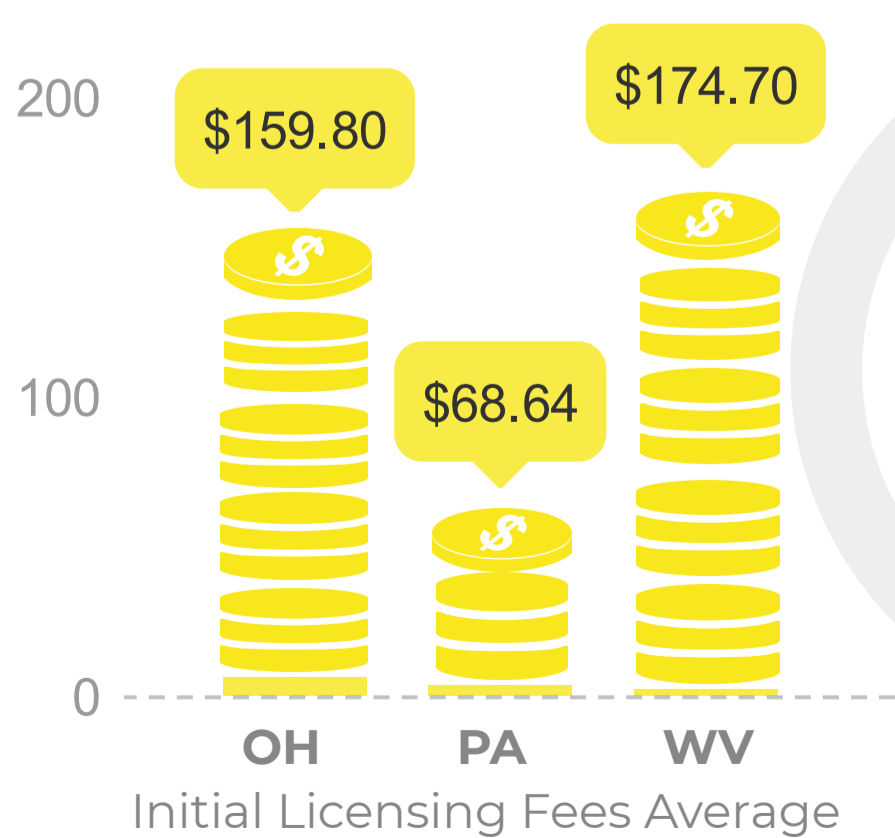


...64...
compared occupations

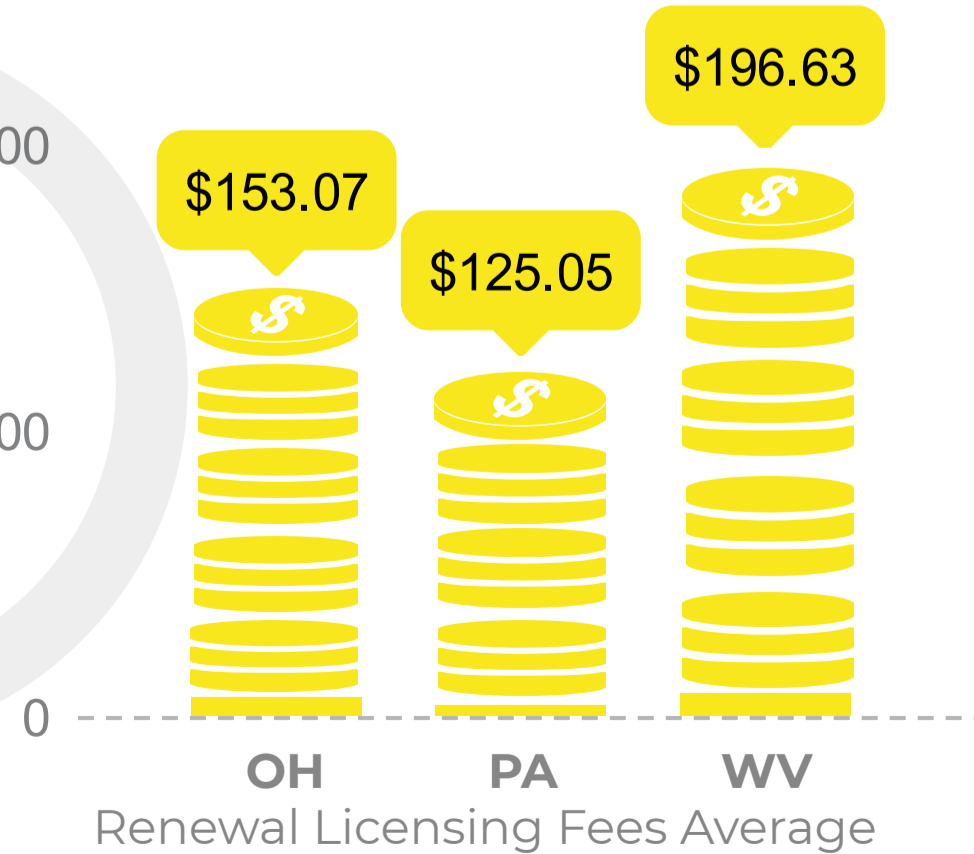
- 39 % High Barriers**
39% of the compared occupations have high barrier to entry
- 30 % Similar Barriers**
30% of the compared occupations have similar barrier to entry
- 31 % Low Barriers**
31% of the compared occupations have low barrier to entry



Initial Licensing Fees
7.7 % above average



Renewal Licensing Fees
8% above average



• Average of all 64 occupations compared

• Renewal fees are scaled on a 2 year renewal cycle



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Occupations with Low Barriers

Advanced Practice Registered Nurse
Auctioneer
Cemetery Salesperson
Certified Nurse Midwife
Clinical Nurse Specialist
Clinical Social Worker
Dietitian/Nutritionist
Emergency Medical Technician
Engineer in Training
Funeral Director
Nursing Home Administrator
Pharmacist
Pharmacist Authorization to Administer Injections
Pharmacy Intern
Professional Engineer
Professional Fundraising Counsel
Professional Solicitors
Psychologist
Real Estate Instructors
Respiratory Therapist

Occupations with Similar Barriers

Athletic Trainer
Certified Real Estate Appraiser Trainee
Chiropractor
Cosmetologist
Dental Hygienist
Dentist
Embalmer
Funeral Resident Intern
Hearing Aide Dealer
Landscape Architect
MD Physician/Surgeon
Nurse Anesthetist
Physical Therapist Assistant
Professional Counselor
Professional Land Surveyor
Radiologic Technologist
Real Estate Salesperson
Social Worker
Vehicle Salesperson

Occupations with High Barriers

Acupuncturist
Apprentice Auctioneer
Associate Broker
Audiologist
Barber
Barber Teacher
Broker (standard)
Certified General Appraiser
Certified Residential Real Estate Advisor
Cosmetology Teacher
Certified Public Accountant
Crane Operator
Esthetician
Family-Marriage Therapist
Licensed Practical Nurse
Massage Therapist
Nail Technician
Occupational Therapist
Occupational Therapist Assistant
Optometrist
Optometrist -Therapeutics
Osteopath Physician
Public Dental Health Practitioner
Radiologic Technologist
Registered Architect



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