

Act No. 156 (H.562). Professions and occupations; Office of Professional Regulation

An act relating to professions and occupations regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation and to the review of professional regulation

This act makes miscellaneous amendments to statutes governing the following professions regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation (OPR): naturopathic physicians, dental professionals, social workers, and land surveyors.

The act also transfers the professional regulation of alcohol and drug abuse counselors from the Department of Health to OPR on September 1, 2016, and the professional regulation of potable water supply and wastewater system designers and pollution abatement facility operators from the Department of Environmental Conservation to OPR on January 1, 2017.

In addition, the act revises the process to review existing professional regulatory laws to ensure the continuing need for and appropriateness of those laws. The act also requires specified agencies and departments that regulate professions to file a one-time report that describes the manner of their professional regulation to help the General Assembly determine whether that regulation should be transferred to OPR and whether the State is complying with antitrust law in light of recent U.S. Supreme Court precedent.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on June 2, 2016