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Form Montana Licensing Reform Task Force
Matter Susie Homemaker - Rules
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Montana Licensing Reform Task Force

This Task Force was created pursuant to Executive Order 1-2026 on January 29, 2026.

Purpose of the Licensing Reform Task Force

The Task Force shall provide the Governor with recommendations and strategies for the State of Montana to reform the professional occupational licensing system for the purposes of:

- identifying and removing burdens and barriers faced by licensees that are not necessary to protect the public; and
- improving access to and availability of professional services for citizens across Montana, including rural communities.

In developing recommendations and strategies, the Task Force shall seek input from Montana citizens, legislators, Montana associations whose members are licensed occupational professionals, professional licensing boards, relevant state agencies, advisory groups and researchers focused on occupational licensing, and other appropriate stakeholders as determined by the Task Force.

Public Record

Please note that all information received through this form is public record.

Which committee would you like to receive your comment?

Health Care Subcommittee
Barriers Subcommittee

We want to hear from you!

We would like to receive any comments you would like the Task Force, or one of its subcommittees, to review. In addition, we are specifically looking for feedback for:

1. Specific topics a committee or the task force should consider, and
2. Specific people or organizations you think the task force should hear from.

Do you have a general comment or a specific person or topic for the Task Force to hear from?

Specific person or topic

What are your comments?

Spots in nursing programs are few and far between. Competition for these spots is fierce. Programs have become popularity contests and no longer teach on real patients with a multitude of comorbidities- instead they teach on mannequins using scenarios.

Any LPN or ASN who wants to further their education have an extremely hard time finding placement, playing the games in nursing school that now exist. In addition, no one can work and return to school- schedules don't allow for it. All programs want a science and a math class in the last 5 years. Why? Anatomy hasn't changed. Biology hasn't changed. Math hasn't changed. This is just a way for schools to make more money.

For LPNs and ASNs who want their RN or BSN- why not develop a more realistic way for them to be able to fill the RN need? Make them have a letter of reference from provider they work with and their employer. Make them have to have been actively practicing for 10+ years. Make them have to take a comprehensive test with skills sign off by DON. If they can succeed at this, allow them to test for the RN NCLEX. Those who are meant to advance will do so. Those who aren't won't be able if it is done appropriately. If you still aren't sure- have their employer approve their performance after 1 year to maintain licensure. Solve the barrier to advancement with some out of the box thinking. I know the universities will be against it, but the small towns and rural facilities as well as the nursing homes would welcome more staff.
