



# **LICENSING REFORM TASK FORCE**

## **Construction Subcommittee**

### **Prioritized Public Comment Recommendations**

June 22, 2026

## Overview

This packet prioritizes the Construction Subcommittee's public comment recommendations by survey support, placing the recommendations with the highest number and percentage of **Yes** responses first. The underlying comments address electricians, plumbers, contractors, crane operators, tile installers, directional boring and fiber-optic contractors, water well drillers, and engineers.

The survey response categories are summarized as **Yes**, **No**, and **Table/Needs Further Discussion**. Where recommendations have the same number of Yes responses, they are grouped together and ordered by Yes percentage where useful.

### Likely Areas of Consensus

The survey results show the strongest support for reforms that either reduce duplicative requirements or improve consumer protection without broad deregulation. The highest-supported recommendations are:

1. Retiring the Montana Crane License where national certification already applies.
2. Clarifying plumbing apprenticeship and experience provisions.
3. Expanding practical electrical exam reference materials.
4. Expanding electrical reciprocity with Oregon and Washington.
5. Supporting a plumbing pre-apprenticeship pathway.
6. Adding a contractor insurance attestation checkbox.

### Likely Areas of Controversy or Further Work

The recommendations receiving lower support generally involve creating new occupational classifications, broadening licensure, addressing labor-market competition issues outside licensing authority, or modifying experience-verification rules where respondents appeared to want more information or safeguards.

### Observations for Subcommittee Discussion

The survey results suggest that the Subcommittee may wish to focus first on recommendations that received majority or near-majority support and that can be framed as targeted reforms rather than broad deregulation. The strongest areas for near-term consideration are:

- **Contractor insurance verification**, especially insurer- or agent-provided certificates and contractor attestations.
- **Elimination of duplicative credentials**, especially the Montana Crane License if national certification already provides the relevant competency assurance.
- **Technical cleanup and mobility improvements**, especially plumbing requirement clarification and expanded electrical reciprocity.
- **Electrical exam administration improvements**, especially Board review of reference materials and criteria.
- Recommendations with lower survey support may still warrant discussion, but they should likely be framed as requests for more information, referrals to the appropriate board or agency, or narrower study items rather than immediate reform proposals.

# 1. Priority Tier 1 - Highest Survey Support

## Recommendation 1A - Retire the Montana Crane License where national certification already applies

Survey support: 6 Yes / 2 No / 1 Tabled or further discussion — 66.7% Yes.

### Recommendation

Retire the Montana Crane License where national certification already applies.

**Reform type:** License elimination / recognition of national certification.

**Professions affected:** Crane operators.

**Stated rationale:** A commenter stated that Montana recognizes national certification, such as NCCCO, but still requires operators to pay state fees and maintain a separate Montana credential.

**Likely policy objective:** Reduce duplicative licensing burdens where accredited national certification already establishes competence and is required by federal law.

### Additional information requested:

- Whether Montana's license imposes additional safety, code, or local-law requirements.

# 2. Priority Tier 2 - Five Yes Responses

## Recommendation 2A - Remove or clarify confusing plumbing apprenticeship and experience provisions

Survey support: 5 Yes / 2 No / 1 Tabled or further discussion — 62.5% Yes.

### Recommendation

Remove or clarify confusing plumbing apprenticeship and experience provisions, including provisions that indirectly require apprenticeship or use unclear terms such as “major phase of plumbing.”

**Reform type:** Statutory clarification / licensure requirement cleanup.

**Professions affected:** Plumbers; plumbing apprentices; journeyman applicants.

**Stated rationale:** A commenter stated that certain statutory language is difficult to determine, indirectly requires apprenticeship, and should be removed to simplify and clearly state requirements.

**Likely policy objective:** Improve clarity, consistency, and administrability of plumbing licensure requirements.

### Additional information requested:

- Exact statutory subsections proposed for deletion or amendment.
- Department and Board interpretation of the current language.
- Applicant confusion, call volume, denial, or appeal data.
- Whether removing language would unintentionally reduce competency requirements.

**Potential amendment to recommendation:**

- Direct staff to prepare a technical cleanup proposal with Board input.
- Revise recommendation to support current practice act cleanup legislation that is already being proposed by the Board of Plumbers.

## **Recommendation 2B - Expand approved electrical examination reference materials**

**Survey support:** 5 Yes / 3 No / 1 Tabled or further discussion – **55.6% Yes.**

### **Recommendation**

Expand the approved reference list for electrical licensing examinations to include commonly used field reference tools, including Ugly's Electrical Reference, Tom Henry's Keywork Index to the NEC, and Ferm's Fast Finder Index.

**Reform type:** Examination administration / testing-reference reform.

**Professions affected:** Electrical license applicants; apprentices; journeyman electricians; master electricians.

**Stated rationale:** A commenter stated that Montana's open-book electrical exam permits the NEC, Montana Building Codes Amendments, and a print reading textbook, but excludes field reference tools allowed in neighboring states. The commenter argued this tests navigation of the NEC rather than competence.

**Likely policy objective:** Improve exam fairness and candidate success by allowing reference materials commonly used in the field, while maintaining examination integrity.

**Potential amendment to recommendation:**

- Recommend Board review of specific titles rather than mandating named references by statute.

## **Recommendation 2C - Pursue expanded electrical reciprocity with Oregon and Washington**

**Survey support:** 5 Yes / 2 No / 2 Tabled or further discussion – **55.6% Yes.**

### **Recommendation**

Pursue expanded electrical reciprocity with neighboring states, particularly Oregon and Washington, where standards are substantially equivalent.

**Reform type:** Reciprocity / license mobility.

**Professions affected:** Journeyman electricians; electrical contractors.

**Stated rationale:** A commenter stated that Montana has journeyman reciprocity agreements with multiple states and endorsement pathways with additional jurisdictions, but that Oregon and Washington are absent from the full reciprocal list despite workforce mobility with Montana's construction labor pool.

**Likely policy objective:** Improve electrician mobility and workforce availability while maintaining substantially equivalent licensing standards.

**Additional information requested:**

- Current reciprocity agreements and endorsement pathways.
- Legal or administrative barriers to reciprocity with Oregon and Washington.

- Comparison of education, experience, examination, and code standards.

## Recommendation 2D - Support a plumbing pre-apprenticeship pathway

Survey support: 5 Yes / 4 No / 0 Tabled or further discussion – 55.6% Yes.

### Recommendation

Support a plumbing pre-apprenticeship pathway that allows verified experience and time in the trade to shorten a formal apprenticeship.

**Reform type:** Apprenticeship pathway / workforce-entry reform.

**Professions affected:** Plumbers; plumbing apprentices.

**Stated rationale:** A commenter supported a pre-apprenticeship position if the individual's experience and time in the trade could be used to shorten the actual apprenticeship.

**Likely policy objective:** Provide a structured entry point into plumbing while recognizing relevant prior experience without weakening licensure standards.

## 3. Priority Tier 3 – Four Yes Responses

### Recommendation 3A – Reassess Limited Electrical Contractor scope of work

Survey support: 4 Yes / 4 No / 0 Table or further discussion – 50.0% Yes.

### Recommendation

Reassess the scope of work that Limited Electrical Contractors may perform, including restrictions involving multifamily, commercial, or projects over four units.

**Reform type:** Scope of practice review.

**Professions affected:** Limited electrical contractors; residential electrical contractors; master electricians.

**Stated rationale:** A commenter stated that current restrictions severely limit limited contractors' ability to develop businesses and expand services to the public.

**Likely policy objective:** Determine whether limited electrical contractor scope restrictions remain justified by safety and competency considerations or unnecessarily restrict small-business growth.

#### Additional information requested:

- Current statutory and rule scope for limited electrical contractors.
- Historical rationale for the four-unit or commercial-work restrictions.
- Complaint, enforcement, or safety data involving limited contractors.
- Comparison with other states' residential or limited electrical contractor classifications.

#### Potential amendment to recommendation:

- Recommend a Board-led scope review rather than immediate expansion.

- Consider incremental expansion tied to documented experience, additional examination, or endorsements.

### **Recommendation 3B – Address the 4,000-hour commercial experience requirement for master electricians**

**Survey results:** 4 Yes / 3 No / 2 Table or further discussion – **44.4% Yes.**

#### **Recommendation**

Address the 4,000-hour commercial experience requirement for master electricians, particularly as applied to rural electricians and small residential contractors.

**Reform type:** Experience requirement review / rural workforce access.

**Professions affected:** Journeyman electricians; limited electrical contractors; master electrician applicants; rural electrical contractors.

**Stated rationale:** Commenters stated that the commercial-hours requirement is difficult to satisfy in rural areas and can prevent small contractors from bidding on or performing projects.

**Likely policy objective:** Reduce unnecessary rural and small-business barriers to master electrician licensure while preserving competence for commercial electrical work.

#### **Additional information requested:**

- Current statutory and rule basis for the 4,000-hour commercial requirement.
- Whether alternative experience, education, examination, or endorsement pathways exist.
- Number of applicants affected and rural geographic distribution.
- Safety rationale for requiring commercial experience for master licensure.

### **Recommendation 3C – Consider alternatives for limited electrical contractors seeking master licensure**

**Survey results:** 4 Yes / 5 No / 0 Table or further discussion – **44.4% Yes.**

#### **Recommendation**

Consider alternatives for limited electrical contractors seeking master licensure, including whether limited license holders may verify their own qualifying hours under defined circumstances.

**Reform type:** Licensure pathway modification / experience verification.

**Professions affected:** Limited electrical contractors; master electrician applicants.

**Stated rationale:** A commenter suggested that limited license holders face a bottleneck in qualifying for master licensure and proposed allowing a limited license holder to sign off on their own hours to test for the master license.

**Likely policy objective:** Create a viable advancement pathway for small electrical contractors while ensuring reliable verification of experience.

#### **Additional information requested:**

- Current requirements for verification of master electrician qualifying hours.
- Existing safeguards against inaccurate or self-serving experience documentation.

- Possible third-party verification options, such as permits, inspections, tax records, project logs, or affidavits.

**Potential amendment to recommendation:**

- Avoid pure self-certification; require objective documentation or third-party verification.
- Limit eligible hours to lawful work performed within the limited contractor's scope.
- Require Board review before exam approval.

### **Recommendation 3D – Formalize criteria for adding future electrical exam reference materials**

**Survey results:** 4 Yes / 4 No / 1 Table or further discussion – **44.4% Yes.**

#### **Recommendation**

Formalize criteria for adding future materials to the electrical exam approved reference list.

**Reform type:** Examination administration / rule or policy criteria.

**Professions affected:** Electrical license applicants.

**Stated rationale:** A commenter proposed that future reference materials should be commercially published, publicly available, not contain pre-computed exam answers or question-specific study guides, and be commonly used by licensed electricians while in the field.

**Likely policy objective:** Create predictable, transparent, and competency-based standards for exam-reference approval.

**Additional information requested:**

- Existing Board policies for approving exam references.
- Whether criteria should be adopted in rule, policy, or exam bulletin.

**Potential amendment to recommendation:**

- Refer to the Electrical Board to develop criteria through policy or rulemaking.

### **Recommendation 3E – Improve recognition of out-of-state plumbing licenses, apprenticeships, hours, and experience**

**Survey results:** 4 Yes / 3 No / 2 Table or further discussion – **44.4% Yes.**

#### **Recommendation**

Improve recognition of out-of-state plumbing licenses, apprenticeships, hours, and experience for experienced plumbers seeking Montana licensure.

**Reform type:** Reciprocity / endorsement / experience recognition.

**Professions affected:** Plumbers; master plumbers; journeyman plumbers; plumbing contractors.

**Stated rationale:** A commenter stated that Montana does not recognize out-of-state apprenticeships, hours, or licenses adequately and that even an experienced out-of-state master plumber was required to “test out” for something they have been doing for over 15 years.

**Likely policy objective:** Improve labor mobility and reduce unnecessary barriers for experienced plumbers while ensuring Montana-specific competency and code knowledge.

**Additional information requested:**

- Current plumbing endorsement, reciprocity, and experience-recognition rules.
- Requirements imposed on applicants from states with comparable licensing standards.

**Potential amendment to recommendation:**

- Require proof of active licensure, good standing, experience, and Montana code/law knowledge.
- Revise recommendation to support current practice act cleanup legislation that is already being proposed by the Board of Plumbers.

### **Recommendation 3F – Consider labor, insurance, and accountability standards for fiber-optic and directional boring work**

**Survey results:** 4 Yes / 4 No / 1 Table or further discussion – **44.4% Yes.**

#### **Recommendation**

Consider labor, insurance, and accountability standards for fiber-optic and directional boring work, particularly on publicly funded or grant-funded infrastructure projects.

**Reform type:** Contractor accountability / insurance and workforce standards.

**Professions affected:** Fiber-optic installation contractors; directional boring contractors; utility contractors.

**Stated rationale:** A commenter stated that out-of-state contractors working on fiber projects may use 1099 workers without insurance or benefits, undercut local contractors, and leave damage unrepaired.

**Likely policy objective:** Ensure contractors on infrastructure projects are insured, accountable for damages, and subject to appropriate workforce or classification standards.

**Additional information requested:**

- Existing licensing, registration, bonding, and insurance requirements for fiber and boring contractors.
- BEAD or other grant-program requirements applicable to contractor selection and labor standards.
- Evidence of unrepaired damage, misclassification, or uninsured work.
- Which agency has authority over publicly funded broadband infrastructure contracts.

**Potential amendment to recommendation:**

- Recommend coordination with broadband, procurement, and labor standards authorities.
- Focus on insurance, bonding, damage repair, and contractor registration where within licensing authority.

### **Recommendation 3G – Allow early Professional Engineer testing in Montana**

**Survey results:** 4 Yes / 2 No / 3 Table or further discussion – **44.4% Yes.**

#### **Recommendation**

Allow early Professional Engineer testing in Montana.

**Reform type:** Examination timing / licensure pathway modernization.

**Professions affected:** Engineers; engineer interns.

**Stated rationale:** A commenter asked whether Montana is considering early PE testing, noting that other states allow it, and stated that it would encourage more young engineers to pursue professional licensing in Montana.

**Likely policy objective:** Encourage earlier engagement with the engineering licensure pathway and reduce timing barriers for qualified engineering candidates.

**Additional information requested:**

- Current Montana PE examination timing requirements.
- States that allow early PE testing and their experience requirements for licensure.
- Whether early testing affects competence, pass rates, or licensure completion.
- Input from the Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

## 4. Priority Tier 4 – Three Yes Responses

### Recommendation 4A – Consider licensing additional construction trades, including HVAC workers

**Survey results:** 3 Yes / 4 No / 1 Table or further discussion — 37.5% Yes.

#### Recommendation

Consider licensing additional construction trades, including HVAC workers.

**Reform type:** Expansion of licensure / public-safety regulation.

**Professions affected:** HVAC workers; construction trades; contractors.

**Stated rationale:** A commenter stated that requiring licensing of additional construction trades, such as HVAC workers, may help address public protection and trade standards, and it seemed that it would help to require licensing of more construction trades.

**Likely policy objective:** Evaluate whether currently unlicensed or less-regulated trades should be subject to licensing because of safety, consumer-protection, or competency concerns.

**Additional information requested:**

- Current Montana regulatory status of HVAC work.
- Evidence of consumer harm, safety incidents, or enforcement gaps.
- Comparison with neighboring state HVAC licensing requirements.
- Potential impact on workforce supply and small contractors.

**Potential amendment to recommendation:**

- Frame as a study or referral rather than immediate licensure expansion.
- Consider registration, certification, or specialty endorsement alternatives.

### Recommendation 4B – Allow Limited Electrical Contractor License holders to sign off on apprentice hours

**Survey results:** 3 Yes / 5 No / 0 Table or further discussion — 37.5% Yes.

## Recommendation

Allow Limited Electrical Contractor License holders to sign off on apprentice hours for apprentices seeking journeyman licensure, at least within a defined residential scope.

**Reform type:** Apprenticeship supervision / scope of authority change.

**Professions affected:** Limited electrical contractors; electrical apprentices; journeyman electricians; residential electrical contractors.

**Stated rationale:** A commenter stated that limited electrical contractors who own businesses are restricted in their ability to train and advance workers, limiting business growth and workforce development.

**Likely policy objective:** Increase apprenticeship capacity and workforce development for residential electrical work while maintaining appropriate supervision and competency standards.

### Additional information requested:

- Current statutory and rule limits on who may verify apprentice hours.
- Safety and competency implications of limiting verified work to residential scopes.
- Input from the State Electrical Board and apprenticeship programs.

### Potential amendment to recommendation:

- Limit signoff authority to work within the limited contractor's lawful scope.

## Recommendation 4C – Conduct a formal review of the electrical exam approved reference list with each new NEC cycle

**Survey results:** 3 Yes / 5 No / 1 Table or further discussion — **33.3% Yes.**

## Recommendation

Conduct a formal review of the electrical exam approved reference list with each new NEC cycle.

**Reform type:** Periodic regulatory review / examination administration.

**Professions affected:** Electrical license applicants.

**Stated rationale:** A commenter stated that Montana adopts each new NEC edition through rulemaking and recommended a parallel process to review and update the approved exam reference list at the same time.

**Likely policy objective:** Keep exam materials current, practical, and aligned with code cycles and field practice.

### Additional information requested:

- Current timing for NEC adoption and exam updates.
- Whether Board, Department, or exam vendor controls reference-list changes.
- Stakeholder input process for apprenticeship schools and licensed electricians.

### Potential amendment to recommendation:

- Recommend Board adoption of a periodic review policy rather than a statutory mandate.

## **Recommendation 4D – Address competitive disadvantages for unionized directional boring contractors competing against non-union contractors**

**Survey results:** 3 Yes / 6 No / 0 Table or further discussion — **33.3% Yes.**

### **Recommendation**

Address competitive disadvantages for unionized directional boring contractors competing against non-union contractors.

**Reform type:** Labor-market concern / public contracting or workforce policy review.

**Professions affected:** Directional boring contractors; utility contractors; union-signatory contractors; non-union contractors.

**Stated rationale:** A commenter stated that being signed with a certain local union hall is required for certain utility projects but creates a disadvantage because non-union competitors can underbid and union work is insufficient to sustain the business.

**Likely policy objective:** Identify whether licensing, public contracting, or labor standards create unequal competitive conditions for local or unionized utility contractors.

### **Additional information requested:**

- Whether the issue falls within occupational licensing authority.
- Whether directional boring contractors are licensed, registered, bonded, or insured under current law.
- Public procurement or prevailing wage rules applicable to the projects described.
- Whether the issue is better referred to another agency or forum.

## **5. Priority Tier 5 – Two Yes Responses**

### **Recommendation 5A – Require contractor liability insurance to match the contractor’s scope of work**

**Survey results:** 2 Yes / 3 No / 1 Table or further discussion — **33.3% Yes.**

### **Recommendation**

Require contractor liability insurance to match the contractor’s scope of work.

**Reform type:** Consumer protection / insurance verification.

**Professions affected:** Construction contractors; independent contractors.

**Stated rationale:** A commenter reported that a contractor was registered for “remodels” but allegedly lacked liability insurance listed for that work, causing significant homeowner losses.

**Likely policy objective:** Improve consumer protection by ensuring contractors have insurance coverage aligned with the work they perform or advertise.

### **Additional information requested:**

- Current contractor registration insurance requirements.
- Whether the Department verifies policy scope or only proof of coverage.

- Insurance industry feasibility of classifying coverage by registered scope.
- Legal implications of Department reliance on insurance representations.

### **Recommendation 5B – Reform water well driller licensing to reduce incumbent control over apprenticeship sign-off**

**Survey results:** 2 Yes / 4 No / 2 Table or further discussion – **25.0% Yes.**

#### **Recommendation**

Reform water well driller licensing to reduce incumbent control over apprenticeship sign-off and allow applicants to qualify through demonstrated knowledge or educational qualifications.

**Reform type:** Licensure pathway / apprenticeship verification reform.

**Professions affected:** Water well drillers.

**Stated rationale:** A commenter stated that licensed drillers control apprenticeship documentation and sign-off, which may restrict competition because established drillers have little incentive to train future competitors.

**Likely policy objective:** Reduce anticompetitive barriers to water well driller licensure while maintaining competence and public protection.

#### **Additional information requested:**

- Current water well driller licensure requirements and apprenticeship verification rules, including licensing authority.
- Whether applicants have alternative ways to document experience.

### **Recommendation 5C – Create a streamlined tile-installation classification and portability pathway**

**Survey results:** 2 Yes / 5 No / 2 Table or further discussion – **22.2% Yes.**

#### **Recommendation**

Create a streamlined tile-installation classification and portability pathway for out-of-state tile licenses.

**Reform type:** Specialty trade classification / license portability.

**Professions affected:** Tile installers; remodel contractors; specialty contractors.

**Stated rationale:** A commenter requested a streamlined “tile installs” classification and a pathway to portability or recognition of out-of-state tile licenses.

**Likely policy objective:** Clarify the regulatory pathway for specialty trade work and reduce barriers for qualified out-of-state specialty contractors.

#### **Additional information requested:**

- Whether Montana currently licenses, registers, or classifies tile installation work.
- Whether tile work overlaps with plumbing, building code, waterproofing, or remodeling requirements.
- Whether out-of-state licenses are comparable to any Montana classification.
- Consumer-protection concerns in bathroom remodel work.

## 6. Priority Tier 6 – One Yes Response

### Recommendation 6A – Create an Electrical Helper permit

Survey results: 1 Yes / 6 No / 2 Table or further discussion – 11.1% Yes.

#### Recommendation

Create an Electrical Helper permit allowing a person to use basic tools while working under the supervision of a licensed journey or master electrician.

**Reform type:** New permit / workforce-entry pathway.

**Professions affected:** Electricians; electrical contractors; electrical apprentices; potential entry-level electrical workers.

**Stated rationale:** A commenter stated that workforce challenges in the skilled trades make it difficult to hire help for simpler tasks but cautioned that stringent guidelines would be needed to prevent the permit from being abused as cheap labor.

**Likely policy objective:** Expand entry-level workforce access while preserving public safety through supervision and defined limits on permitted work.

#### Additional information requested:

- Scope of tasks an Electrical Helper could safely perform.
- Required supervision ratio and whether direct or general supervision would be required.
- Whether existing apprentice registration pathways already address this need.
- Enforcement mechanisms to prevent substitution for apprentices or licensed electricians.

## 7. Other

The following recommendations are recommendations from the public that have already been discussed with the full Licensing Reform Task Force but, due to timing, were included in the survey. Information regarding survey responses, task force action, and staff follow-ups are included with each recommendation.

### Recommendation 7A – Add a contractor insurance attestation checkbox

Survey results: 5 Yes / 2 No / 2 Table or further discussion – 55.6% Yes.

Task Force action: Advance for staff analysis

#### Recommendation

Add a contractor licensing or registration checkbox requiring contractors to confirm they have appropriate liability insurance coverage for the work performed as stated on their license or registration.

**Reform type:** Administrative attestation / consumer protection.

**Professions affected:** Construction contractors; independent contractors.

**Stated rationale:** A commenter recommended adding a simple checkbox for contractors to confirm appropriate liability coverage for the work being performed as stated on the license.

**Likely policy objective:** Improve contractor accountability and consumer protection through a low-burden attestation mechanism.

**Task Force Motion:** Advance the recommendation for staff analysis and potential implementation language, rather than adopt final statutory or rule language now. Staff should report back on whether the checkbox can be implemented administratively, whether rulemaking or legislation is required, and what language best advances consumer protection while avoiding any implication that DLI guarantees contractor insurance coverage.

**Additional information requested / Staff Follow-up:**

- Existing registration application questions about insurance.
- Whether contractor self-attestation would create meaningful enforcement authority.
- Whether false attestation could support discipline or registration action.

**Potential amendment to recommendation:**

- Pair the checkbox with a requirement to maintain supporting documentation.
- Include an acknowledgement that false statements may result in enforcement action.

### **Recommendation 7B - Require contractor insurance companies to provide proof of liability coverage directly to the Department**

**Survey support:** 6 Yes / 1 No / 2 Tabled or further discussion — **66.7% Yes.**  
**Task Force action:** No motion to advance

#### **Recommendation**

Require contractor's insurance companies to provide proof of liability coverage directly to the Department, with coverage commensurate with the contractor's authorized work.

**Status:** This recommendation was discussed at length at the Full Task Force meeting on June 8, and the task force did not receive a motion to advance or explore this recommendation any further.

### **Recommendation 4D – Address concerns about unlicensed or undocumented construction workers bypassing Montana licensing and regulatory requirements**

**Survey results:** 3 Yes / 4 No / 2 Table or further discussion — **33.3% Yes.**  
**Task Force action:** Advance for staff analysis

#### **Recommendation**

Address concerns about unlicensed or undocumented construction workers bypassing Montana licensing and regulatory requirements.

**Reform type:** Enforcement / unlicensed-practice review.

**Professions affected:** Construction workers; contractors; specialty trades.

**Stated rationale:** A commenter asked how Montana will prevent undocumented or unlicensed construction workers from skirting the regulatory process.

**Likely policy objective:** Improve enforcement against unlicensed construction activity and ensure a level playing field for compliant contractors.

**Task Force Motion:** Advance the recommendation for staff review and enforcement mapping, and direct staff to report back on: Existing enforcement tools for unlicensed construction activity; Complaint-routing and

public-education improvements; Coordination with local building and permitting officials; Interaction with worker-classification and workers' compensation enforcement; Current LEGAL Act implementation and applicability to construction employers; and Whether any statutory, rule, or administrative changes are needed to close identified enforcement gaps.

**Additional information requested / Staff follow-up:**

- Existing enforcement authority for unlicensed construction activity.
- Complaint volume and enforcement outcomes.
- Whether the concern relates to immigration status, licensure status, worker classification, or contractor registration.
- Coordination with local building departments and permitting authorities.

**Potential amendment to recommendation:**

- Focus on unlicensed practice, misclassification, and contractor compliance rather than immigration status unless directly relevant to state licensing authority.