



TO: The Professional Practice Committee

FROM: Douglas E. Lentivech

SUBJECT: Professional Licensing Update

DATE: February 4, 2013

AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

Periodic update and discussion of the professional licensing and registration processes of the Office of the Professions.

Reason(s) for Consideration

For Information.

The Professional Practice Committee is responsible for the oversight of the regulatory aspects of the professional licensing and registration activities of the Department and for making recommendations to the Board of Regents for final action. It is the responsibility of the Office of the Professions to provide information to the Committee on a regular basis, including all activities of the Office, and to seek the Committee's guidance in establishing the priorities and goals of the Office.

Proposed Handling

This discussion will take place at the February 2013 meeting of the Professional Practice Committee.

Background Information

The State Education Department oversees the licensing and registration of 50 professions. The increase in the number of professions has been dramatic in recent years, as has the related increase in the number of actual licensees. Additionally, there has been a steady increase in the types of credentials authorized by the Legislature; in addition to the more conventional licenses and certifications, the laws relating to various

professions now provide for limited licenses, faculty licenses, authorizations to practice, privileges and other credentials. Every legislative session includes consideration of the establishment of additional professions and credentials, as well as expanding the continuing education requirements to additional professions. In light of the ever increasing number of professions and professionals and the varied legislative initiatives relating to the professions, the charge of the Department is to ensure that the licensing review and registration process is both comprehensive and timely. As the numbers of professions and licensees increase, it is necessary to constantly improve business processes to meet the ongoing demands.

While the Office of the Professions (OP) has reengineered all of its current business processes, we recognize that we need to leverage new technology to keep pace. In that regard, the statewide initiative known as e-Licensing provides the next step of our development as an efficient and safe licensing operation.

Managers responsible for OP's licensing and registration functions will share information and provide statistical data on recent activities including: initial licensing and registration, re-registration, registration of corporations and other business entities, and the business process flows that the Office currently employs. Additionally, we will discuss aspects of the e-Licensing initiative and how that project will impact the licensing process.