



Testimony on Senate Bill 9

Submitted by Isabel Blank, External Affairs Manager
February 19, 2017

Good afternoon distinguished members of the General Law Committee. My name is Isabel Blank. I am Manager, External Affairs at the Yankee Institute for Public Policy, and I am writing to testify in support of **Senate Bill No. 9**: An Act Adjusting Fees for Occupational Licenses, Certifications and Registrations. For questions or follow up, please contact me at isabel@yankeeinstitute.org.

Connecticut occupational licensing laws require, on average, \$264 in fees, 361 days dedicated to education and experience, and passing one exam. We license an above-average number of occupations compared to other states, and many of those licenses are required for lower-income occupations. Additionally, Connecticut licenses two occupations that are licensed by no other states: home entertainment installers and forest workers.

The fees, needless education or irrelevant experience requirements, and other regulatory hurdles that accompany occupational licensing serve as barriers that prevent many people from making a living. State-mandated occupational licensure decreases entrepreneurship among low-income individuals and is also linked to recidivism and slow job growth.

We applaud the legislature for taking strides in the past few sessions to reduce the burden of occupational licensing on our residents. **Senate Bill 9** will continue to improve the lives of our lower-income citizens while also improving the overall entrepreneurial business climate of the state.

By reducing upfront costs and increasing renewal fees, **Senate Bill 9** will limit initial barriers to individual workers while remaining revenue neutral. So, while the state will not lose any money in the process, the financial burden to the individual is shifted to when they are more likely to be financially stable.

This bill mirrors similar reforms Governor Lamont has recommended for the Department of Motor Vehicles. The Governor proposes extending the time between license and motor-vehicle registration renewals to limit bureaucratic red tape; we recommend doing the same for occupational licensing.

Not only is it fair, but it is beneficial for the state to allow people to work if they want to work, and reforming occupational licensing is a simple way to do that. While we additionally recommend eliminating and lessening licensing requirements where possible, this simple and

well-considered bill will help Connecticut residents be free to succeed. For these reasons, we support this bill.