Regulatory Analysis Form	INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION		
(Completed by Promulgating Agency) (All Comments submitted on this regulation will appear on IRRC's website	RECEIVED		
(1) Agency Department of State, Bureau of Professional an Occupational Affairs, State Board of Crane Ope	Independent Regulatory Review Commission April 19, 2024		
(2) Agency Number: 16A Identification Number: 7104			
(3) PA Code Cite: 49 Pa. Code §§ 6.16, 6.17			
(4) Short Title: Licensure by Endorsement			
(5) Agency Contacts (List Telephone Number and Email Address): Primary Contact: Dean F. Picarella, Board Counsel, State Board of Crane Operators, P.O. Box 69523, Harrisburg, PA 17106-9523; phone (717) 783-7200; fax (717) 787-0251; dpicarella@pa.gov . Secondary Contact: Marc J. Farrell, Regulatory Counsel, Department of State, P.O. Box 69523, Harrisburg, PA 17106-9523; phone (717) 783-7200; fax (717) 787-0251; marcfarrel@pa.gov .			
(6) Type of Rulemaking (check applicable box): ☐ Proposed Regulation ☐ FINAL REGULATION ☐ Final Omitted Regulation	 Emergency Certification Regulation Certification by the Governor Certification by the Attorney General 		
Operators (Board) to issue a license, certificate, regithis Commonwealth provided the applicant meets the registration or permit from another state, territor substantially equivalent to or exceed the requirement by methods determined by the Board; has not compused in this Commonwealth, unless the Board granting the license, certificate, registration or permit	oy endorsement) requires the State Board of Crane stration or permit to an applicant to allow practice in following criteria: holds a current license, certificate, by or country whose licensing requirements are ts in this Commonwealth; demonstrates competency amitted any act that constitutes grounds for refusal, registration or permit to practice that profession or d determines such conduct is not an impediment to tr; is in good standing and has not been disciplined by distration or permit, unless the Board determines such		

conduct is not an impediment to granting the license, certificate, registration or permit; and the applicant pays fees, as established by regulation. Additionally, 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 authorizes boards and commissions to issue a provisional license, certificate, registration or permit while an applicant is satisfying remaining requirements for licensure by endorsement, for which the Board must set by regulation the terms of expiration.

The act of July 1, 2020, (P.L. 575, No. 53) added 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 as part of the consolidation of the act of July 2, 1993 (P.L. 345, No. 48) (Act 48) into Title 63, Chapter 31 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes. The text of 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 was originally added to Act 48 by the act of July 1, 2019 (P.L. 292, No. 41) (Act 41). This rulemaking effectuates Act 41.

- (8) State the statutory authority for the regulation. Include <u>specific</u> statutory citation.
- 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 requires licensing boards and commissions to issue a license, certificate, registration or permit to an applicant, provided the applicant meets certain criteria for eligibility and pays fees established by the Board by regulation. The Board is proposing regulations to implement § 3111(a)(1)–(5), relating to information required to determine: whether another jurisdiction is substantially equivalent; the methods of competency; whether an applicant has committed an act that would be grounds for refusal, suspension or revocation of a license, certificate, registration or permit to practice in the profession or occupation in this Commonwealth, and whether such acts should be an impediment to licensure; disciplinary actions and whether such discipline should be an impediment to licensure; and the fee as established by the Board by regulation. 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 also requires boards and commissions that issue provisional licenses, certificates, registration or permits to set the expiration of the provisional endorsement license by regulation.

The act of July 1, 2020, (P.L. 575, No. 53) added 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 as part of the consolidation of the act of July 2, 1993 (P.L. 345, No. 48) (Act 48) into Title 63, Chapter 31 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes. The text of 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 was originally added to Act 48 by the act of July 1, 2019 (P.L. 292, No. 41) (Act 41). This rulemaking effectuates Act 41.

Additionally, section 302(5) of the Crane Operators Licensure Act (act) (63 P.S. § 2400.302(5)) authorizes the Board to promulgate and enforce regulations as necessary to carry into effect the provisions of the act.

- (9) Is the regulation mandated by any federal or state law or court order, or federal regulation? Are there any relevant state or federal court decisions? If yes, cite the specific law, case or regulation as well as, any deadlines for action.
- 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111(a)(5) requires the Board to set the fee to be charged by regulation and subsection (b)(2) requires the Board to set an expiration of the provisional endorsement license. Otherwise, it is not mandated by any Federal or state law or court order, or Federal regulation.

(10) State why the regulation is needed. Explain the compelling public interest that justifies the regulation. Describe who will benefit from the regulation. Quantify the benefits as completely as possible and approximate the number of people who will benefit.

The regulation is needed to implement 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 to provide for licensure by endorsement to applicants from other states, territories and countries. Act 41 was enacted due to a recognition that licensed professionals from other jurisdictions have difficulty obtaining a license to practice in this Commonwealth. Licensure by endorsement under 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 helps eliminate unnecessary barriers to licensure for citizens from other jurisdictions and for military personnel and their spouses while maintaining sufficient safeguards to ensure public protection. 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 enables boards and commissions under the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (Bureau) to issue a license by endorsement, and further provides for a provisional endorsement license to quickly move these professionals into the workforce without unnecessary delays, which reduces the barriers to employment.

Since the effective date of Act 41 (August 30, 2019), the Board has neither received nor considered any applications for licensure by endorsement under 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111. Based upon that, the Board estimates receiving no more than 1-2 applications on an annual basis.

(11) Are there any provisions that are more stringent than federal standards? If yes, identify the specific provisions and the compelling Pennsylvania interest that demands stronger regulations.

There are no federal standards applicable to the subject matter of the regulation.

(12) How does this regulation compare with those of the other states? How will this affect Pennsylvania's ability to compete with other states?

This regulation will not adversely affect Pennsylvania's ability to compete with other states. The purpose of 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 is to make it easier for out-of-state applicants, including military spouses, who have an out-of-state professional or occupational license to work in Pennsylvania. The purpose of 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 is also to reduce barriers to employment, which will make Pennsylvania more competitive. 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 and the Board's proposed regulations will encourage skilled workers and their families to move to Pennsylvania, which will enhance the workforce, provide more talent for businesses, and help grow Pennsylvania's economy. Surrounding states also have similar laws and regulations for licensure by endorsement in the crane operator field.

In comparing the proposed regulation to other states, the Board researched states in the Northeastern region of the United States. The Board identified one other State (New Jersey) that has a comprehensive license by endorsement law that is applicable to the various professional licensing boards in New Jersey. Similar to 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111, New Jersey requires its professional licensing boards to issue a license to any person who holds a current professional or occupational license in good standing whose licensure standards are substantially equivalent to the current standards of New Jersey. Unlike 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111, New Jersey does not require applicants to demonstrate competency and does not provide discretion to issue a discretionary provisional license. While Pennsylvania's competency requirement may be more stringent than New Jersey, demonstration of competency is statutorily required under 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111.

The Board also researched whether other crane operator state boards have similar licensure by

endorsement laws and regulations applicable to the crane operator profession. For those states that have similar licensure by endorsement laws and regulations applicable to the crane operator profession, the Board compared the following criteria: eligibility requirements (substantial equivalence or other standard); competency methods; and provisional licenses, including expiration of the provisional license.

Delaware, Maine, New Hampshire, Ohio and Vermont do not license or certify crane operators. Maryland, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and West Virginia license or certify crane operators, but do not have any provisions for licensure by endorsement.

Connecticut licenses crane operators and does have a licensure by endorsement provision. Connecticut requires that an applicant show competency by having at least two years of experience in the operation of a crane but does not limit that experience to having occurred within two of the past five years. New York certifies crane operators, and the Commissioner may issue a certificate of competence without examination to the holder of a license or certificate issued by another state or government entity that allows such holder to operate cranes when, in the opinion of the Commissioner, the standards used by such entity for the certification or licensing of crane operators are comparable to those of New York. New York has no requirement to show competency in the operation of a crane before issuing a license by endorsement.

None of the states surveyed issue provisional licenses for applicant's seeking licensure by endorsement.

Based on this information, the Board believes the amendments will not put Pennsylvania at a competitive disadvantage. To the contrary, by allowing applicants to become licensed through endorsement who can demonstrate competency by experience for at least two of the five years immediately preceding the date of application, and by providing for provisional licenses, which allows an applicant to hold a provisional license while the applicant is satisfying remaining requirements for licensure by endorsement, Pennsylvania will be at a competitive advantage over states that do not have licensure by endorsement.

Of the states that do license crane operators, and that have licensure by endorsement provisions, the requirements for licensure by endorsement in those states are similar to those of 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111.

(13) Will the regulation affect any other regulations of the promulgating agency or other state agencies? If yes, explain and provide specific citations.

This rulemaking does not affect other regulations of the Board or other state agencies.

(14) Describe the communications with and solicitation of input from the public, any advisory council/group, small businesses and groups representing small businesses in the development and drafting of the regulation. List the specific persons and/or groups who were involved. ("Small business" is defined in Section 3 of the Regulatory Review Act, Act 76 of 2012.)

The Board discusses its regulatory proposals at regularly scheduled public meetings of the Board. Representatives of the professional associations representing the regulated community routinely attend those meetings. In drafting the proposal, the Board solicited comments from stakeholders and interested parties in July of 2020. A list of stakeholders and interested parties is attached hereto. See Attachment "B." The Board considered input and information provided by Richard Thompson from the National

Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO).

The first comment from NCCCO was a recommendation that the Board "[i]nclude OSHA's language regarding government-issued licenses in 1926.1427(c) as a component of being considered substantially equivalent, including: a written exam, a practical (hands-on) exam, exams covering the topics in 1926.1427(j)(1) and (2), a determination by the entity overseeing the licensure program that it meets OSHA's requirements, and an official statement from the other jurisdiction's licensing body that it has been deemed compliance would be ideal in this regard." Under the substantially equivalent requirement of § 6.16(a)(1), the Board will review the requirements for licensure in the jurisdiction from which the applicant has received licensure. The Board is aware of OSHA's requirements and is required to implement Federal mandates when reviewing applications. As it currently does for all applications, the Board will ensure that all the necessary components of the original licensing jurisdiction's certification, including a written and practical exam and other OSHA requirements, are included as part of that certification.

The next comment recommended that the Board include additional language to assure that a "license, certification, registration or permit" issued to a professional crane operator in another jurisdiction which requires certification by an Accredited Certifying Entity as a pathway to, or requirement for, a license, certification, registration or permit, to insure that the Certifying Agency is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) or the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) at the time of the issuance of the certification. This suggestion has already been established in the definitional sections of section 102 of the act the Crane Operator Licensure Act (63 P.S. § 2400.102), and § 6.2 of the Board's regulations, which are applicable to any applications made under this new provision. NCCCO also recommended that the Board include a reference to 29 CFR 1926.1427(c)(1)–(4) (relating to operator training, certification and evaluation) within Section 6.16(a)(1)(i). In response, the Board notes that the Board will be reviewing the requirements of the original licensing jurisdiction to ensure that the applicant is eligible to receive a license in Pennsylvania in accordance with the requirements of the act and current regulations, which includes determining whether or not the other jurisdiction's licensing requirements are substantially equivalent to Pennsylvania's. The referenced CFR sections are included in the substantially equivalent standards referenced in § 6.16(a)(1). The Board is dutybound to enforce and implement Federal requirements that must be met and will continue to do so for all applications, including licensure by endorsement applications. Accordingly, the Board does not believe it is necessary to add these provisions as doing so would be duplicative.

A notice of proposed rulemaking was published at 52 Pa.B. 1978 (April 2, 2022), for 30 days of public comment. The Board did not receive any comments from the public or the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee (SCP/PLC). The House Professional Licensure Committee (HPLC) submitted comments. As part of its review under the Regulatory Review Act, the Independent Regulatory Review Committee (IRRC) provided comments and recommendations.

(15) Identify the types and number of persons, businesses, small businesses (as defined in Section 3 of the Regulatory Review Act, Act 76 of 2012) and organizations which will be affected by the regulation. How are they affected?

For purposes of this rulemaking, the Board estimates no more than 1-2 individuals will apply for licensure by endorsement under 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 on an annual basis.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry (L&I) 2019-2021 Short-Term Forecast, there were an estimated 3,350 crane & tower operators employed in Pennsylvania. Of those crane & tower operators, the majority worked for warehousing and storage (19%), wholesale trade (15%), temporary help services (9%), construction (7%) and food manufacturing (6%).

Based on their experience in the crane industry, the Board's professional board members estimate that currently approximately 70% of the mobile cranes in Pennsylvania are used in construction applications. About 15% are used for maintenance work at plant operations. These plants could be power generation plants and manufacturing plants. The other 15% are used by natural gas well service companies.

For the business entities listed above, small businesses are defined in Section 3 of Act 76 of 2012, which provides that a small business is defined by the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Small Business Size Regulations under 13 CFR Ch. 1 Part 121. Specifically, the SBA has established these size standards at 13 CFR § 121.201 for types of businesses under the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). In applying the NAICS standards to the types of businesses where crane operators work, these companies are considered small businesses if the average annual receipts are \$39.5 million or less. For all specialty trade contractor categories and other building equipment contractors, small businesses are considered those with \$16.5 million or less in average annual receipts. For iron and steel mills and ferroalloy manufacturing, as well as iron and steel pipe and tube manufacturing from purchased steel, and nonferrous metal (except aluminum) smelting and refining, small businesses are considered those with 1,000 or fewer employees. For companies that that provide support activities for rail transport, small businesses are considered those with 1,500 or fewer employees for line-haul railroads and 500 or fewer employees for short line railroads. For nonferrous metal (except copper and aluminum) rolling, drawing and extruding, as well as secondary smelting, refining and alloying of nonferrous metal (except for copper and aluminum), small businesses are considered those with 750 or fewer employees. Small businesses for miscellaneous durable goods merchant wholesalers are those with 100 or fewer employees.

Small businesses for electric power generation plants range from 750 or fewer employees to 250 employees. Fossil fuel electric power generation plants and nuclear electric power generation plants are considered small businesses if they have 750 or fewer employees. Hydroelectric power generation plants are small businesses if they have 500 or fewer employees. All other electric power generation plants are small businesses if they have 250 or fewer employees.

In considering all of these small business thresholds set by NAICS for the businesses in which crane operators work, it is probable that many of the licensed crane operators work in small businesses. Based on their experience in the crane industry, the Board's professional board members believe that approximately half of the licensed crane operators work in small businesses and the other half work for larger contracting companies, including power plants and manufacturing plants.

This rulemaking only affects individuals who apply for licensure by endorsement. These individuals would be impacted by the \$100 fee to apply for licensure. This fee is the same amount as applicants who apply by reciprocity under the act. Whether small businesses will be impacted by the regulations depends on whether the businesses would pay the application fee for licensure by endorsement. Because the application fees are incurred by individuals applying licensure, any business (small or otherwise) could avoid these costs by requiring employees to pay their own licensure costs. Moreover, the proposed rulemaking will have a positive impact in that it is implementing 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111, which provides an additional pathway to licensure that previously did not exist.

(16) List the persons, groups or entities, including small businesses, that will be required to comply with the regulation. Approximate the number that will be required to comply.

Individuals applying to the Board for licensure by endorsement under 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 will be required to comply with this rulemaking. The Board estimates no more than 1-2 licensure by endorsement applications a year. Small businesses will only be impacted to the extent they voluntarily pay licensure fees and other costs for applicants.

(17) Identify the financial, economic and social impact of the regulation on individuals, small businesses, businesses and labor communities and other public and private organizations. Evaluate the benefits expected as a result of the regulation.

The Commonwealth will benefit from licensure by endorsement under 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111. The purpose of 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 is to make it easier for out-of-state applicants, including military spouses, who have an out-of-state professional or occupational license to work in Pennsylvania. 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 also reduces barriers to employment, which will make Pennsylvania more competitive. 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 and the Board's regulations will encourage skilled workers and their families to move to Pennsylvania, which will enhance the workforce, provide more talent for businesses, and help grow Pennsylvania's economy.

The citizens of the Commonwealth will also benefit from the enhanced workforce and growth in economy while still having assurance of a level of competence similar to existing licensees in this Commonwealth. To show competence, the Board requires showing experience in the profession for at least two of the five years immediately preceding the date of the application. This method assures competency because it shows that the applicant has been actively engaged in the profession and possesses the skills needed to operate a crane in a safe and competent manner.

The financial impact of the regulation falls primarily on the applicants and the Board. Individuals seeking licensure by endorsement will incur costs associated with qualifying for and obtaining a license. As noted above, an applicant applying for licensure by endorsement under 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 would be required to pay the \$100 application fee, which covers the costs of processing the application. An applicant would also be required to pay applicable fees for a Criminal History Record Check (CHRC). Currently the fee is \$22 for a CHRC obtained from the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP). The Board expects that most states have similar fees. The application and CHRC fees are the same fees paid by all individuals applying for initial licensure, not just applicants for licensure by endorsement under 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111.

There is no cost associated with making the required showing of professional experience needed to demonstrate competency.

For an applicant licensed in a jurisdiction where the law, regulation or other rule is in a language other than English, § 6.16(a)(1)(ii) would require the applicant to have those documents professionally translated at the applicant's expense. The Board anticipates that the translation costs will be approximately \$25 per page from the most common languages and range from between two and five pages in length. The Board has been accepting licensure by endorsement applications under 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 for over 2 years and has received no such applications from foreign applicants.

The positive impact for applicants is that 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 and the proposed regulation provides a new pathway to licensure that did not previously exist.

(18) Explain how the benefits of the regulation outweigh any cost and adverse effects.

As previously discussed, 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 benefits this Commonwealth and its citizens and individual applicants wishing to obtain licensure. The costs associated with obtaining licensure are outweighed by the need of the Board to set fees to cover its costs for processing applications to maintain the fiscal integrity of the Board, and by the equity of assessing the costs of processing applications to the applicants themselves, as opposed to the existing licensee population bearing these costs through increased biennial renewal fees. The General Assembly contemplated and weighed the impact of imposing fees on applicants in 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111(a)(5) against the benefits of providing an additional pathway to licensure to individuals from other jurisdictions. While avoiding economic impact to applicants is always preferable, the General Assembly recognized that board fees are necessary in order to pay for the costs associated with the filing of applications. Those costs (application fee, CHRC fee) are the same for all applicants for licensure, not just those seeking licensure by endorsement under 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111.

Regarding the cost of translating the law, regulation or other rule to English, this is a necessary part of the application process. If the Board is unable to understand the other jurisdiction's requirements, it will not be able to determine whether those requirements are substantially equivalent.

Regarding costs associated with demonstrating competency, applicants who do so by showing experience in the practice of the profession for at least 2 of the 5 years immediately preceding the date of the application will incur no such costs.

The benefit of 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 and the proposed regulation is that it provides a new pathway to licensure that did not previously exist.

(19) Provide a specific estimate of the costs and/or savings to the **regulated community** associated with compliance, including any legal, accounting or consulting procedures which may be required. Explain how the dollar estimates were derived.

An individual applying for licensure by endorsement under 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 will incur some costs, including an application fee of \$100 and a CHRC fee (\$22 if obtained through PSP). An applicant obtaining a CHRC from any other state, territory or country would be charged the fee assessed by that jurisdiction. The Board is unable to determine with certainty the CHRC fees that would be assessed by other states, territories or countries.

There are no costs associated with demonstrating competency via experience in the profession.

An applicant whose jurisdiction's laws and regulations are in a language other than English would have to provide professionally translated versions of same. The Board anticipates that the translation costs would be approximately \$25 per page from the most common languages, and range from between two and five pages in length. The Board does not anticipate receiving any applications for crane operator licensure by endorsement in the future that would require an applicant to have their jurisdiction's laws and regulations translated.

Since the effective date of Act 41, the Board has not received or processed any applications for licensure by endorsement under 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111. Therefore, during this period, the total costs incurred was \$0. The Board anticipates 1-2 licensure by endorsement applications per year, which will result in

approximate costs in the amount of \$122 to \$244 annually, which sum is inclusive of the application fee and the PSP CHRC fee (\$100 + \$22 = \$122 per applicant, x 2 = \$244).

(20) Provide a specific estimate of the costs and/or savings to the **local governments** associated with compliance, including any legal, accounting or consulting procedures which may be required. Explain how the dollar estimates were derived.

The regulation would not result in costs or savings to local governments.

(21) Provide a specific estimate of the costs and/or savings to the **state government** associated with the implementation of the regulation, including any legal, accounting, or consulting procedures which may be required. Explain how the dollar estimates were derived.

The increased operational costs incurred by the Board to implement licensure by endorsement under 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 should be recouped in the form of application fees paid by applicants.

(22) For each of the groups and entities identified in items (19)-(21) above, submit a statement of legal, accounting or consulting procedures and additional reporting, recordkeeping or other paperwork, including copies of forms or reports, which will be required for implementation of the regulation and an explanation of measures which have been taken to minimize these requirements.

There should be no legal, accounting or consulting procedures associated with this rulemaking. Like all other applicants under the Board, affected individuals will be required to submit an application for licensure accompanied by required documentation.

(22a) Are forms required for implementation of the regulation?

Yes, applicants are required to submit an online application.

(22b) If forms are required for implementation of the regulation, attach copies of the forms here. If your agency uses electronic forms, provide links to each form or a detailed description of the information required to be reported. Failure to attach forms, provide links, or provide a detailed description of the information to be reported will constitute a faulty delivery of the regulation.

The agency currently uses an online platform for the submission of applications for licensure through PALS, which also encompasses licensure by endorsement under 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111. The Board has not yet developed an electronic application specifically for those applying for licensure through 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111. Applicants are asked to apply through the online platform for licensure and, to the extent necessary, this information is manually reviewed by Board counsel and the Board. Within the online platform, applicants are asked a series of questions. Applicants are asked if they are currently licensed in another jurisdiction and the type of license for which they are applying. Applicants currently licensed in another jurisdiction, which is defined in the final rulemaking as another state, territory or country, are directed to

submit a copy of the current applicable law, regulation or other rule governing licensure, certification, registration or permit requirements and scope of practice in the jurisdiction that issued the license, translated into English if needed. Applicants are required to indicate whether they have been disciplined by the jurisdiction in which they are licensed. Applicants with disciplinary history must upload appropriate documentation related to the discipline. Applicants must provide a recent CHRC from the state police or other state agency (or other appropriate agency of a territory or country) that is the official repository for criminal history record information for every state in which they have lived, worked, or completed professional training/studies for the past 10 years. Based upon the above, applications are forwarded to Board counsel, and to the Board, to determine eligibility under 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111. The Bureau is working towards creating a more detailed electronic application process specific to 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 applications, which will decrease the need for manual review of applications. The Board has attached a paper application form which reflects the information currently being obtained through the existing online application process and the information that will be obtained through the online licensure by endorsement when it is developed. See Attachment "A."

(23) In the table below, provide an estimate of the fiscal savings and costs associated with implementation and compliance for the regulated community, local government, and state government for the current year and five subsequent years.

	Current FY 23-24	FY +1 24-25	FY +2 25-26	FY +3 26-27	FY +4 27-28	FY +5 28-29
SAVINGS:						
Regulated Community	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Local Government	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
State Government	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Savings	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
COSTS:						
Regulated Community	\$122-\$244	\$122-\$244	\$122-\$244	\$122-\$244	\$122-\$244	\$122-\$244
Local Government	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
State Government	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Costs	\$122-\$244	\$122-\$244	\$122-\$244	\$122-\$244	\$122-\$244	\$122-\$244
REVENUE LOSSES:						
Regulated Community	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Local Government	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
State Government	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Revenue Losses	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(23a) Provide the past three-year expenditure history for programs affected by the regulation.

Program	FY -3	FY -2	FY -1	Current FY
	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
	(actual)	(actual)	(actual)	(budgeted)
State Board of Crane Operators	\$287,089.85	\$249,446.71	\$207,857.76	\$239,000.00

- (24) For any regulation that may have an adverse impact on small businesses (as defined in Section 3 of the Regulatory Review Act, Act 76 of 2012), provide an economic impact statement that includes the following:
 - (a) An identification and estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the regulation.
 - (b) The projected reporting, recordkeeping and other administrative costs required for compliance with the proposed regulation, including the type of professional skills necessary for preparation of the report or record.
 - (c) A statement of probable effect on impacted small businesses.
 - (d) A description of any less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the proposed regulation.

RESPONSES

- (a) This rulemaking will not have an adverse impact on small businesses unless small businesses voluntarily pay application fees or other costs relating to establishing competency. Because these fees are incurred by individuals applying for initial licensure, any business (small or otherwise) could avoid these costs by requiring employees to pay their own licensure costs.
- (b) This rulemaking will not impose additional reporting, recordkeeping or other administrative costs on small businesses.
- (c) The probable effect on impacted small businesses would be positive because 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 and the Board's regulations will encourage skilled workers and their families to move to Pennsylvania, which will enhance the workforce, provide more talent for businesses, and help grow Pennsylvania's economy.
- (d) The Board could discern no less costly or less intrusive alternative methods to effectuate the purpose of 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 that would be consistent with the Board's mandate to produce enough revenue to cover its costs of operations and to administer the act in the public interest. As the Board does not have any continuing education requirements, and uses experience obtained while practicing the profession as its method of determining competency, there is no less costly or intrusive alternative methods of effectuating this regulation.
- (25) List any special provisions which have been developed to meet the particular needs of affected groups or persons including, but not limited to, minorities, the elderly, small businesses, and farmers.

No special provisions have been developed for any affected groups or persons.

(26) Include a description of any alternative regulatory provisions which have been considered and rejected and a statement that the least burdensome acceptable alternative has been selected.

No alternative regulatory provisions were considered and rejected. The Board believes this proposal represents the least burdensome acceptable alternative.

- (27) In conducting a regulatory flexibility analysis, explain whether regulatory methods were considered that will minimize any adverse impact on small businesses (as defined in Section 3 of the Regulatory Review Act, Act 76 of 2012), including:
 - a) The establishment of less stringent compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses;
 - b) The establishment of less stringent schedules or deadlines for compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses;
 - c) The consolidation or simplification of compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses;
 - d) The establishment of performing standards for small businesses to replace design or operational standards required in the regulation; and
 - e) The exemption of small businesses from all or any part of the requirements contained in the regulation.

RESPONSES

- a) & b) The Board did not consider less stringent reporting requirements or deadlines for small businesses or for applicants that intend to work for small businesses. All applicants for licensure are treated equally.
- c) There are no compliance or reporting requirements that could be consolidated or simplified. The application process is the same whether a particular licensee is employed by a small business or a large business.
- d) The regulations do not contain design or operational standards that need to be altered for small businesses.
- e) To exclude any applicant from the requirements contained in the regulation based on the size of their employers would not be consistent with 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111.
- (28) If data is the basis for this regulation, please provide a description of the data, explain in detail how the data was obtained, and how it meets the acceptability standard for empirical, replicable and testable data that is supported by documentation, statistics, reports, studies or research. Please submit data or supporting materials with the regulatory package. If the material exceeds 50 pages, please provide it in a searchable electronic format or provide a list of citations and internet links that, where possible, can be accessed in a searchable format in lieu of the actual material. If other data was considered but not used, please explain why that data was determined not to be acceptable.

No data, studies or references were used to justify the regulation.

(29) Include a schedule for review of the regulation including:

A. The length of the public comment period: 30 days

B. The date or dates on which any public meetings or hearings will be held:

No public hearings were scheduled or held. The Board discusses its regulatory proposals at regularly scheduled meetings. This rulemaking was discussed at public board meetings on September 25, 2019, November 20, 2019, January 22, 2020, May 27, 2020, July 23, 2020, September 23, 2020, May 24, 2021, March 23, 2022, Ltd. 27, 2022, Ltd. 2

July 27, 2022 and May 24, 2023.

C. The expected date of delivery of the

final-form regulation:

Winter 2023-24

D. The expected effective date of the

final-form regulation:

Upon publication as final.

E. The expected date by which compliance with the final-form regulation will be required:

the man remares with severed.

F. The expected date by which required permits, licenses or other approvals must be obtained:

Upon publication as final.

<u>N/A</u>

(30) Describe the plan developed for evaluating the continuing effectiveness of the regulations after its implementation.

The Board continually reviews the efficacy of its regulations, as part of its annual review process under Executive Order 1996-1. The Board reviews its regulatory proposals at regularly scheduled public meetings. The Board will meet on the following remaining dates in 2024: March 27, May 30, July 31, September 26, and November 27, 2024.

More information can be found on the Board's website:

https://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsCommissions/CraneOperators/Pages/default.aspx.

ATTACHMENT "A"

STATE BOARD OF CRANE OPERATORS

P.O. Box 2649 Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

Telephone: (717) 783-1404 **Fax:** (717) 783-1404 **Courier Address:** 2601 North Third Street Harrisburg, PA 17110

E-Mail: ra-craneoperators@pa.gov

APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT UNDER 63 PA.C.S. § 3111

PLEASE NOTE: If a pending application is older than one year from the date submitted and the applicant wishes to continue the application process, the State Board of Crane Operators (Board) shall require the applicant to submit a new application including the required fee.

In order to complete the application process, many of the supporting documents associated with the application cannot be more than six months from the date of issuance. All background check documents cannot be older than 90 days from the date of issuance.

1. REQUIREMENTS

- A. Hold a current license, certificate, registration or permit to practice as a crane operator in good standing to practice as a crane operator in a jurisdiction whose standards are substantially equivalent to or exceed those of the Board.
- B. Demonstrates competency by one of the following:
 - Experience in the practice of crane operation by demonstrating, at a minimum, that the applicant has actively engaged in the practice of crane operation the jurisdiction that issued the license, certificate, registration or permit for at least 2 of the last 5 years immediately preceding the filing of the application with the Board.
- C. Has not committed any act that constitutes grounds for refusal, suspension or revocation of a license, certification, registration or permit to practice crane operation under the act 63 P.S. 24000.101-2400.2102 or Board regulations 49 Pa. Code Chapter 6 and has not been disciplined by the jurisdiction that issued the license, certificate, registration or permit.
- D. Has paid the \$100 certification, licensure or registration fee.
- E. Provides a copy of the current applicable law, regulation or other rule governing licensure, certification, registration or permit requirements and scope of practice in the jurisdiction that issued the license. The copy of the applicable law, regulation or other rule must include the enactment date. If the applicable law, regulation or other rule is in a language other than English, at the applicant's expense, the applicable law, regulation or other rule shall be translated by a professional translation service and verified to be complete and accurate.

2. APPLICATION CHECKLIST

standing:

☐ Complete pages 1, 2 and 3 of the application.
If any documentation submitted in connection with this application will be received in a name other than the name under which you are applying, you must submit a copy of the legal document(s) indicating the name change (i.e., marriage certificate, divorce decree which indicates the retaking of your maiden name; legal document indicating the retaking of a maiden name, or court order).
\$100 Application Fee – Check or money order made payable to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Fees are not refundable or transferable. If you do not receive the Board's approval to sit for the examination within

Persons licensed in other jurisdictions who possess a current license, license, certificate or permit in good

regardless of the reason for non-payment.

Have the out-of-state licensing authorities in which you hold or have held a license to practice as a crane operator submit a letter of good standing directly to the State Board of Crane Operators with a state seal affixed to the letter.

one year from the date your application is received, you will be required to submit another application fee. A processing fee of \$20.00 will be charged for any check or money order returned unpaid by your bank,

A Criminal Background Check from the state in which you reside must be submitted. The criminal
background check must be completed within 90 days of submission of this application to the Board.
Pennsylvania background checks may be obtained at https://epatch.state.pa.us or from the Pennsylvania
State Police Central Repository, 1800 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17110-9758, (717) 783-5593.
(If you reside outside of Pennsylvania, you must contact the State Police from your jurisdiction.)

3. **INFORMATION**

A. Any change in disciplinary status between the date of submission of the application and the date of passing the examination must be reported to the Board in writing.

STATE BOARD OF CRANE OPERATORS

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2649

Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649 Telephone: (717) 783-1404 E-Mail: ra-craneoperators@pa.gov Courier Address (if using a mailing service that requires a street address):

2601 North Third Street Harrisburg, PA 17110 Fax: (717) 705-5540

APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT UNDER 63 PA.C.S. § 3111

INITIAL APPLICATION FEE: \$100 PAYABLE TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA. FEES ARE NOT REFUNDABLE OR TRANSFERABLE. IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE THE BOARD'S APPROVAL TO SIT FOR THE EXAMINATION WIIHIN ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE YOUR APPLICATION IS RECEIVED, YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT ANOTHER APPLICATION FEE. A PROCESSING FEE OF \$20.00 WILL BE CHARGED FOR ANY CHECK OR MONEY ORDER RETURNED UNPAID BY YOUR BANK, REGARDLESS OF THE REASON FOR NON-PAYMENT.

1.	Name(Last)	(First)	(Middle)
2.	Will any documentation submitted in connection with t under which you are applying? YES □ NO □		, ,
	If yes, please provide the other name or names:		
3.	Address(Street)		
	(City)	(State)	(Zip Code)
	The address you provide is the address that will be associated with licenses are not forwardable .	this application to which all correspondence will be mailed.	Please note that
4.	Telephone	Fax	
5.	E-Mail Address		
6.	Date of Birth		
	Social Security Number:	_	
7.	Crane Specialties – check all that apply:		
	_attice Boom Crawler		
	_attice Boom Truck		
	Telescopic Boom Crane W/Rotating Control Station		
	Telescopic Boom Crane W/Fixed Control Station		
	Tower		

8.	Competency Requirement		
Exp	perience:		
cert	we you actively engaged in the practice of Crane Operation in the jurisdiction that issued ifficate, registration or permit for at least 2 of the last 5 years immediately preceding the lication?		
Pro	ovide a curriculum vitae demonstrating this experience.		
9.	Name state where initial license to practice as a crane operator was issued.		
	Date initial license was issued		
	List any other state, territory or country where you hold or have held a license/certificate to practice as a operator	crane	
	Have the licensing authority listed above submit a letter of good standing (verification of licensu the Board with state seal affixed to the letter. Provide a copy of the current applicable law, regularule governing licensure, certification, registration or permit requirements and scope of practice jurisdiction that issued the license.	tion or	
		YES	NO
10.	Do you hold, or have you ever held, a license, certificate, permit, registration or other authorization to practice any other profession in any state or jurisdiction? If you answered YES to the above question, please provide the profession and state or jurisdiction.		
	Please do not abbreviate the profession.		
	The Board must receive verification of any license, certificate, permit, registration or other authorization to practice any other profession directly from the state or jurisdiction. <i>PLEASE NOTE:</i> The Board does NOT need to receive verification for licenses issued by one of the licensing boards within the Pennsylvania Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs.		
	ou answer YES to any of the following questions, provide complete details as well as copies of vant documents to the Board office.	YES	NO
11.	Have you had disciplinary action taken against a professional or occupational license, certificate, permit, registration or other authorization to practice a profession or occupation issued to you in any state or jurisdiction or have you agreed to voluntary surrender in lieu of discipline?		
12.	Do you currently have any disciplinary charges pending against your professional or occupational license, certificate, permit or registration in any state or jurisdiction?		
13.	Have you withdrawn an application for a professional or occupational license, certificate, permit or registration, had an application denied or refused, or for disciplinary reasons agreed not to apply or reapply for a professional or occupational license, certificate, permit or registration in any state or jurisdiction?		
14.	Do you currently have any criminal charges pending and unresolved in any state or jurisdiction?		
15.	Do you currently engage in, or have you ever engaged in, the intemperate or habitual use of alcohol or narcotics, hallucinogenic or other drugs or substances that may impair judgement or coordination?		
16.	Have you been examined by a physician and determined to be physically capable of operating a		

	crane? If so, attach a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) physical form approved by the United States Department of Transportation or an equivalent form.		
in H	IOTICE: Disclosing your Social Security Number on this application is mandatory in order for the State Boomply with the requirements of the Federal Social Security Act pertaining to Child Support Enforcement, inplemented in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at 23 Pa.C.S. § 4304.1(a). At the request of the Department of the Department of the Indian Services (DHS), the licensing boards must provide to DHS information prescribed by DHS about the social security number.	as irtment of	
Αр	plicant's Statement:		
	I verify that this application is in the original format as supplied by the Department of State and has not lotherwise modified in any way. I am aware of the criminal penalties for tampering with public records or under 18 Pa.C.S. § 4911.		
	I verify that the statements in this application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief I understand that false statements are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities) and may result in the suspension, revocation or denial of my license, certificate, permit or registration.		
	Applicant's Signature Date		



STATE BOARD OF CRANE OPERATORS STAKEHOLDERS

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FACE SHEET FOR FILING DOCUMENTS WITH THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

(Pursuant to Commonwealth Documents Law)

RECEIVED

Independent Regulatory Review Commission

April 19, 2024

		I DO NOT W	RITE IN THIS SPACE
	Copy below is hereby approved as to form and legality. Attorney General	Copy below is here by certified to be a true and correct copy of a document issued, prescribed or promulgated by:	Copy below is hereby approved as to form and legality. Executive or Independent Agencies.
BY:	(DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL)	State Board of Crane Operators (AGENCY)	BY: (DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL)
		DOCUMENT/FISCAL NOTE NO. 16A-7104	
		DATE OF ADOPTION:	4/17/2024
	DATE OF APPROVAL		DATE OF APPROVAL
		Cum Done	(Chief Counsel Independent Agency) (Strike inapplicable title)
	Check if applicable Copy not approved. Objections attached.	ANDREW S. GOULET	Check if applicable. No Attorney General approval or objection within 30 days after submission.
		TITLE BOARD CHAIRPERSON (EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CHAIRMAN OR SECRETARY)	

FINAL RULEMAKING

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF CRANE OPERATORS

TITLE 49 PA CODE CHAPTER 6

§§ 6.16, 6.17

LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT

The State Board of Crane Operators (Board) hereby adds §§ 6.16 and 6.17 (relating to licensure by endorsement; and provisional endorsement license) to read as set forth in Annex A.

Effective Date

The amendments will be effective upon publication of the final-form rulemaking in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

Statutory Authority

The provisions of 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 (relating to licensure by endorsement) require licensing boards and commissions to issue a license, certificate, registration or permit to an applicant to allow practice in this Commonwealth provided the applicant meets the following criteria: holds a current license, certificate, registration or permit from another state, territory or country whose licensing requirements are substantially equivalent to or exceed the requirements in this Commonwealth; demonstrates competency; has as not committed any act that constitutes grounds for refusal, suspension or revocation of a license, certificate, registration or permit to practice that profession or occupation in this Commonwealth unless the board or commission determines such conduct is not an impediment to granting the license, certificate, registration or permit; is in good standing and has not been disciplined by the jurisdiction that issued the license, certificate, registration or permit unless the board or commission determines such conduct is not an impediment to granting the license, certificate, registration or permit; and the applicant pays fees, as established by regulation. Additionally, 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 authorizes boards and commissions to issue a provisional license, certificate, registration or permit while an applicant is satisfying remaining requirements for licensure by endorsement, for which the Board must set by regulation the terms of expiration.

Section 302(5) of the Crane Operator Licensure Act (act) (63 P.S. § 2400.302(5)) authorizes the Board to promulgate and enforce regulations as necessary to carry into effect the provisions of the act.

The act of July 1, 2020 (P.L. 575, No. 53) added 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 as part of the consolidation of the act of July 2, 1993 (P.L. 345, No. 48) (Act 48) into 63 Pa.C.S. Chapter 31 (relating to powers and duties). The text of 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 was originally added to Act 48 by the act of July 1, 2019 (P.L. 292, No. 41) (Act 41).

Background and Need for the Amendments

This final-form rulemaking is needed to effectuate 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111, which requires the Board to issue a license to an applicant licensed in another jurisdiction who meets the requirements for licensure by endorsement as set forth in 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111. Under 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111, the Board must determine whether the other jurisdiction's standards for licensure are substantially equivalent

to or exceed those established by the Board. Additionally, 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 requires the Board to determine the methods by which an applicant can demonstrate competency, such as completion of continuing education or having experience in the profession or occupation for at least 2 of the 5 years immediately preceding the filing of the application. Under 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111(b)(2), the Board must also establish, by regulation, the expiration of provisional endorsement licenses.

This final-form rulemaking sets forth the Board's criteria for eligibility for licensure by endorsement, including the specific methods required for an applicant to demonstrate competency. It also sets forth the requirements for granting a provisional endorsement license. 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 further provides that the Board may establish appropriate fees for this licensure. Accordingly, the Board has determined that the fee for submission of an application for licensure by endorsement shall be the same as the application fee for initial licensure under § 6.4 (relating to fees).

A notice of proposed rulemaking was published at 52 Pa.B. 1978 (April 2, 2022), for 30 days of public comment. The Board did not receive any comments from the public or the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee (SCP/PLC). The House Professional Licensure Committee (HPLC) submitted comments. As part of its review under the Regulatory Review Act, the Independent Regulatory Review Committee (IRRC) provided comments and recommendations. The following represents a summary of the comments received and the Board's responses.

Summary of the HPLC Comments and the Board's Responses

It should be noted at the outset that the Annex delivered to IRRC on March 10, 2022, differs from the version that was published by the Legislative Reference Bureau in the *Pa. Bulletin* on April 2, 2022. In the published version, original § 6.16(a) (relating to definitions) was moved and renumbered as subsection (d). Subsections (b), (c) and (d) were then renumbered as subsections (a), (b) and (c), respectively. The Board will refer herein to the version published in the *Pa. Bulletin* on April 2, 2022.

The HPLC commented on § 6.16(a)(1)(i) (referred to by the HPLC as § 6.16(b)(1)(i)), which requires the applicant to provide a copy of the current law and regulations, including the scope of practice, from the jurisdiction where the applicant holds an active license. The HPLC expressed a concern that such a requirement is not explicitly stated in the statute and suggested it should be Board Counsel's responsibility to research the laws and regulations of the jurisdiction from which the applicant is applying.

For the following reasons, the Board has not amended § 6.16(a)(1)(i) in the final-form regulation: 1) it is the applicant's burden to prove to the Board that qualifications for licensure are met; 2) applicants, as a practical matter, generally have access to the laws and regulations of the jurisdiction in which they are licensed, and as such – particularly when an applicant is licensed outside of the United States – are in a position to obtain those laws and regulations and provide

them to the Board, and 3) placing the responsibility on the Board and its legal counsel to research the laws and regulations of other jurisdictions, particularly other countries, will likely be burdensome and costly to the Board. That financial burden, in turn, would have to be passed along to the Board's licensees in the form of increased biennial renewal fees, or alternatively, if the costs were applied towards application fees, the cost to apply for a license would have to be increased. While the Board will take steps to verify the laws and regulations of other jurisdictions, the Board believes having the applicant provide that initial information is the most appropriate, efficient and cost-effective approach.

The HPLC next commented on § 6.16(a)(4) (referred to by the HPLC as § 6.16(b)(4)), recommending that the Board clarify this subsection by specifying the type of discipline that may preclude licensure and the timeframe for when such discipline occurred. While the HPLC suggested that the Board distinguish between formal discipline and a complaint, the Board does not think it is appropriate to make this type of distinction because a complaint is neither formal nor informal discipline. Additionally, the Board does not believe it is appropriate to predetermine the type of discipline or the timeframe within which the discipline occurred. Instead, the Board believes it is appropriate to evaluate discipline on a case-by-case basis.

As indicated in § 6,16(c), the Board is authorized to determine that prohibited acts and disciplinary actions are not an impediment to licensure under 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111. In determining whether a prohibited act or disciplinary action is an impediment to licensure, the Board is dutybound to apply the caselaw and other applicable laws. See, *Secretary of Revenue v. John's Vending Corp.*, 453 Pa. 488, 309 A.2d 358 (1973); *Bethea-Tumani v. Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, State Board of Nursing*, 993 A.2d 921 (Pa. Cmwlth. 2010). As part of that analysis, the Board may consider the facts and circumstances surrounding the prohibited act or disciplinary action, and other factors such as an increase in age or maturity of the individual since the date of the prohibited act or disciplinary action, any disciplinary history or lack of disciplinary history before and after the date of the prohibited act or disciplinary action, the successful completion of education and training activities relating to the prohibited act or disciplinary action, and any other information relating to the fitness of the individual for licensure.

The HPLC also commented on § 6.17(b)(1), which would allow the Board to issue a provisional license for less than a year. The provisions in 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111(b)(2) require the Board to establish an expiration date for provisional licenses in its regulations. The Board, along with most of the other boards and commissions under the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (Bureau), has determined that an expiration of 1 year is generally an appropriate timeframe for most – but not necessarily all – applicants. In the interest of public safety, the Board determined that providing some discretion is necessary for instances where the remaining licensure requirements can and should be completed in less than a full year. For example, if an applicant merely needed to complete 10 additional continuing education credits, it generally should not require a full year to obtain such credits. Another example would be an applicant who needs 2 additional months of experience to meet the competency requirements. A provisional license of a duration that is less than a full year, such as one that expires after perhaps 4 or 6 months, would

typically be a sufficient amount of time to meet such requirement.

It is in the public interest to ensure that a licensee becomes qualified or competent as expeditiously as possible. While the Board certainly will provide a full year when the facts warrant it, the Board wants its licensees to be qualified and competent as soon as practicable. The Board anticipates this discretion would be utilized in a situation where an applicant's obligations to meet any remaining requirements are minimal. To allow a full 12 months in all situations opens the door for an individual to practice for many months before they even attempt to meet the remaining requirements. In the interest of public safety, the Board believes it is best for applicants who have been issued a provisional license to meet the remaining requirements within a time period closely tied to the length of time reasonably necessary to meet the specific requirements in question.

The final comment by the HPLC suggests an amendment to § 6.17(d) to remove the language that would preclude an individual from being issued more than one provisional license. A provisional license is an unrestricted license that is issued to provide a short period of time to an applicant to practice while simultaneously working to meet the Board's licensure by endorsement requirements. While the Board would typically not issue an unrestricted license to an applicant who has not met the licensure standards or who has not proven competency, the General Assembly gave boards the discretion to do so via a provisional license, so long as there was an established expiration for the provisional license. The Board is concerned that allowing for multiple provisional licenses could be used as a mechanism to circumvent licensure standards, and as such, does not believe it is necessary or appropriate to allow multiple provisional licenses.

The Board's regulations do allow a provisional license holder to request an extension of the provisional license for up to 1 additional year, which the Board believes provides a more than sufficient timeframe. Moreover, there is nothing that prevents an applicant who held a provisional license that expired from reapplying for a license by endorsement under § 6.16. However, the applicant in that instance would not be eligible for an additional provisional license. Ultimately, the Board determined that protection of the public warrants the limitation of one provisional license per applicant to ensure the citizens of this Commonwealth are receiving services from qualified and competent licensees.

Summary of IRRC's comments and the Board's responses

IRRC, in its comment, identified the comments provided by the HPLC, and indicated that it will consider the HPLC comments and the Board's responses to the issues raised in determining whether the regulation is in the public interest. The Board's responses to the HPLC comments are set forth above.

IRRC inquired about the burden and costs of having an applicant submit a copy of the applicable laws and regulations from the jurisdiction that issued the license under § 6.16(a)(1)(i) and requiring that the copy of the applicable law or regulation include its enactment date under § 6.16(a)(1)(iii). As noted in response to the HPLC comment above, placing the burden on the

Board to obtain this information would lead to additional costs that would have to be passed along to applicants and licensees in the form of increased application fees and/or higher biennial renewal fees. It could also increase the processing time for these applications if the Board has to first search for and gather the relevant laws and regulations from one or more jurisdictions. After considering all options, the Board believes the requirement that the applicant obtain the laws and rules from their state, jurisdiction or country is the most appropriate, efficient and cost-effective manner to supply the Board with the information necessary for the Board to make a timely determination on the application.

IRRC also asked what standard would be used to determine whether a jurisdiction is substantially equivalent for the applicant to show competency via experience under § 6.16(a)(2) and inquired as to whether this provision places an additional burden on the applicant or the Board, or both, given that the experience may have occurred in several different jurisdictions. The Board reads § 6.16(a)(2) in conjunction with the substantial equivalency requirement under § 6.16(a)(1). If the Board determines that the licensing jurisdiction where the applicant has a current license in good standing has licensing standards that are substantially equivalent to those established by the Board for purposes of § 6.16(a)(1), substantial equivalency will also be established for purposes of assessing competency via experience under § 6.16(a)(2). If the applicant wishes to have the Board consider experience gained in one or more additional jurisdictions, the Board would make the same substantial equivalency analysis. In the same way that the Board would not grant a license by endorsement under 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 to an individual who is licensed in a jurisdiction with requirements that are not substantially equivalent, the Board does not believe that experience gained in a jurisdiction that falls short of being substantially equivalent should be counted towards the years of experience for purposes of establishing competency. Other than providing a copy of the laws and regulations of the other jurisdiction or jurisdictions, there is no initial burden on the applicant to actually provide its own substantial equivalency analysis, nor is the applicant expected to make a comparison between Board's laws, rules and requirements on the one hand, versus the laws, rules and requirements of jurisdiction X on the other. The Board will perform that analysis.

IRRC questioned whether the Board has considered creating and publishing an annual determination of those jurisdictions in the United States which have laws and regulations substantially equivalent to Pennsylvania. The Board would initially note that since the inception of Act 41, the Board has not received any applications for licensure by endorsement. Not all jurisdictions license crane operators, and those that do periodically update and change their licensing requirements. The Board cannot assume that the laws and regulations of a given jurisdiction will remain the same for any extended period of time. The Board does an individual assessment of each applicant at the time the application is submitted. This ensures that the Board is using the most up-to-date and accurate information available when making decisions on these applications, to best ensure that all crane operators licensed under 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 are competent and safe to practice the profession. As such, and given the low volume of expected applications for licensure by endorsement under 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111, the Board believes that these provisions in the final regulation balance the protection of the public health, safety and welfare with the burden and cost to applicants and the Board.

IRRC requested that the Regulatory Analysis Form be updated at Question 8 to include the statutory citation to the Board's authority to promulgate regulations in the final RAF. This has been completed as requested.

IRRC also requested that the RAF be updated to include a list of specific persons and groups involved in developing and drafting the proposal. The Board has attached a list of stakeholders to the final RAF.

IRRC asked the Board to provide a specific estimate of the costs to the regulated community for translation of an applicable law, regulation or rule, and to address the cost of the Criminal History Record Check (CHRC) fee. Translating the law, regulation or other rule to English is a necessary part of the application process. If the Board is unable to understand the other jurisdiction's requirements, it will not be able to determine whether those requirements are substantially equivalent. The Board does not anticipate that many applicants will incur this cost. Nevertheless, the Board anticipates the cost for translation would be approximately \$25 per page to translate from the most common languages. With regard to the CHRC costs, the Pennsylvania fee (\$22) has been included in the RAF as requested. The Board is unable to determine with certainty the CHRC fees that would be assessed by other states, territories or countries. The RAF has been updated to reflect these costs to the regulated community.

Miscellaneous Clarifications

Twenty-seven Boards under the Bureau are drafting and publishing regulations for licensure by endorsement under 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111. In an effort to keep language in the regulations as consistent as possible, the Board is amending the regulations based upon comments from the review process of other regulations. The amendments are stylistic and do not have a substantive impact on the regulations.

The Board amended § 6.16(a)(2) to clarify the requirement that the experience required for competency must have been obtained under a license, certificate, registration or permit in a jurisdiction or jurisdictions that have substantially equivalent licensure standards. The amendment makes clear that the Board will consider experience accumulated in more than one jurisdiction when calculating the required experience.

The Board added the term "discipline" to the heading of $\S 6.16(c)$ to be consistent with the language in $\S 6.16(a)(3)$ and (4) and to clarify that subsection (c) applies not just to prohibited acts but also to discipline.

The Board added § 6.17(c)(3) to clarify that the expiration of a provisional license is a terminating event.

Fiscal Impact and Paperwork Requirements

This final-form rulemaking should have no fiscal impact on the Commonwealth or its political subdivisions. The costs to the Board related to processing applications for licensure by endorsement under 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 will be recouped through fees paid by applicants. Applicants for licensure by endorsement under 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 will pay the same application fee as all other applicants for initial licensure under § 6.4, and may incur costs associated with translation of documents.

Sunset Date

The Board continually monitors the cost effectiveness of its regulations. Therefore, no sunset date has been assigned.

Regulatory Review

Under section 5(a) of the Regulatory Review Act (71 P.S. § 745.5(a)), on March 10, 2022, the Board submitted a copy of the proposed rulemaking, published a 52 Pa.B. 1978 (April 2, 2022) and a copy of a Regulatory Analysis Form to IRRC, the HPLC and the SCP/PLC for review and comment. A copy of this material is available to the public upon request.

Under section 5(c) of the Regulatory Review Act (71 P.S. § 745.5(c)), the Board shall submit to IRRC, the HPLC and the SCP/PLC copies of comments received as well as other documents when requested. In preparing the final-form regulation, the Board considered comments received from IRRC and the HPLC. No comments were received from the public or the SCP/PLC.

Under section 5.1(a) of the Re	gulatory Review Act (71 P.S. § 745.5a(a)), on April 19, 2024,
the Board delivered this final-form	rulemaking to IRRC, the HPLC and the SCP/PLC. Under
section 5.1(j.2) of the Regulation R	leview Act, the final-form rulemaking was deemed approved
by the HPLC and the SCP/PLC on	, 2024. Under section 5.1(e) of the Regulatory
Review Act, IRRC met on	, 2024, and approved the final-form rulemaking.

Findings

The Board finds that:

- (1) Public notice of proposed rulemaking was given under sections 201 and 202 of the act of July 31, 1968 (P.L. 769, No. 240) (45 P.S. §§ 1201 and 1202), referred to as the Commonwealth Documents Law, and the regulations promulgated under those sections at 1 Pa. Code §§ 7.1 and 7.2 (relating to notice of proposed rulemaking required; and adoption of regulations).
- (2) A public comment period was provided as required by law, and all comments received were considered in drafting this final-form rulemaking.

- (3) This final-form rulemaking does not include any amendments that would enlarge the scope of the proposed rulemaking published at 52 Pa.B. 1978 (April 2, 2022).
- (4) This final-form rulemaking is necessary and appropriate for the administration of 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 and the Crane Operator Licensure Act.

Order

The Board, acting under its authorizing statutes, orders that:

- (a) The regulations of the Board at 49 Pa. Code, Chapter 6, are amended by adding §§ 6.16 and 6.17 to read as set forth in Annex A.
- (b) The Board shall submit this final-form regulation to the Office of Attorney General and the Office of General Counsel for approval as required by law.
- (c) The Board shall submit this final-form regulation to IRRC, the HPLC and the SCP/PLC as required by law.
- (d) The Board shall certify this final-form regulation and deposit it with the Legislative Reference Bureau as required by law.
- (e) The final-form rulemaking shall take effect upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

Steven Kuncelman Chairperson State Board of Crane Operators Commentors List- 16A-7104 Licensure by Endorsement

No Comments

Annex A

TITLE 49. PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL STANDARDS PART I. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Subpart A. PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS

CHAPTER 6. STATE BOARD OF CRANE OPERATORS

* * * * *

LICENSURE

* * * * *

§ 6.16. Licensure by endorsement.

- (a) Requirements for issuance. To be issued a license by endorsement under 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 (relating to licensure by endorsement) as a professional crane operator, an applicant shall provide proof satisfactory to the Board, that the applicant has met SATISFY all of the following conditions:
 - (1) Has HAVE a current license, certification CERTIFICATE, registration or permit in good standing to practice as a professional crane operator in another jurisdiction whose standards are substantially equivalent to OR EXCEED those established by the Board under § 502 of the act (63 P.S. § 2400.502) and § 6.11 (relating to general requirements). The following apply:
 - (i) An applicant must SHALL submit a copy of the current applicable law, regulation or other rule governing licensure, certification, registration or permit requirements and scope of practice in the jurisdiction that issued the license, certificate, registration or permit.

1

- (ii) If the applicable law, regulation or other rule is in a language other than English, at the applicant's expense, the applicable law, regulation or other rule shall be translated by a professional translation service and verified to be complete and accurate.
- (iii) The copy of the applicable law, regulation or other rule must include THE enactment date-of-law, regulation or other rule.
- (2) <u>Demonstrates</u> DEMONSTRATE <u>competency by the following: experience in the profession of crane operating by demonstrating, at a minimum, that the applicant has actively engaged in the practice of crane operating under a license, <u>certification</u> CERTIFICATE, <u>registration or permit in a substantially equivalent jurisdiction or jurisdictions</u> THAT HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT LICENSURE STANDARDS <u>for at least 2 years of the</u> 5 years immediately preceding the filing of the application with the Board.</u>
- (3) Has HAVE not committed any act that constitutes grounds for refusal, suspension or revocation of a license, eertification—CERTIFICATE, registration or permit to practice crane operating under section 703(a) of the act (63 P.S. § 2400.703(a)) or § 6.41—6.44 (relating to disciplinary actions).
- (4) Has HAVE not been disciplined by the jurisdiction that issued the license, certificate, registration or permit.
- (5) Has HAVE paid the initial licensing application fee as required by § 6.4(a) (relating to fees) of the act.
- (6) Has HAVE applied for licensure in accordance with this chapter in the manner and format prescribed by the Board.
- (b) Interview and additional information. An applicant may be required to appear before

the Board for a personal interview and may be required to submit additional information, including supporting documentation relating to competency and experience. The applicant may request an interview TO BE CONDUCTED by video teleconference for good cause shown.

- (c) Prohibited acts AND DISCIPLINE. Notwithstanding subsections (a)(3) and (4), the Board may, in its discretion, determine that an act prohibited under subsection (a)(3) SECTION 703(a) OF THE ACT (63 P.S. § 2400.703(a)) OR §§ 6.41–6.44 (RELATING TO DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS) or disciplinary action by a jurisdiction is not AN impediment to licensure under 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111.
- (d) *Definition*. As used in this section, the term "jurisdiction" means a state, territory or country.

§ 6.17. Provisional endorsement license.

- (a) Provisional endorsement license. The Board may, in its discretion, issue a provisional endorsement license to an applicant while the applicant is satisfying remaining requirements for licensure by endorsement under 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 and § 6.16 (relating to licensure by endorsement).
 - (b) Expiration of a provisional endorsement license.
 - (1) An individual holding a provisional endorsement license may practice for up to 1 year after issuance of the provisional endorsement license. The Board, in its discretion, may determine that an expiration date of less than 1 year is appropriate.
 - (2) On UPON a written request and a showing of good cause, the Board may grant an extension of no longer than 1 year from the expiration date of the provisional endorsement license.

- (c) Termination of a provisional endorsement license. A provisional endorsement license terminates if any of the following occurs:
 - (1) The Board completes its assessment of the applicant and either denies or grants the license.
 - (2) The holder of the provisional license fails to comply with the terms of the provisional endorsement license.
 - (3) THE PROVISIONAL ENDORSEMENT LICENSE EXPIRES.
- (d) Reapplication. An individual may reapply for licensure by endorsement under § 6.16 after expiration or termination of a provisional endorsement license. The; HOWEVER, THE individual may not be issued a subsequent provisional endorsement license.



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS STATE BOARD OF CRANE OPERATORS

Post Office Box 2649 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-2649 (717) 783-3397

April 19, 2024

The Honorable George D. Bedwick, Chairman INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION 14th Floor, Harristown 2, 333 Market Street Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

Re: Final Regulation

State Board of Crane Operators

16A-7104: Licensure by Endorsement

Dear Chairman Bedwick:

Enclosed is a copy of a Final rulemaking package of the State Board of Crane Operators pertaining to Licensure by Endorsement.

The Board will be pleased to provide whatever information the Commission may require during the course of its review of the rulemaking.

Sincerely,

Andrew S. Goulet, Chairperson State Board of Crane Operators

ASG/MJF: jpp Enclosure

cc: Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner of Professional and Occupational Affairs

K. Kalonji Johnson, Deputy Secretary of Regulatory Programs Michael McDonald, Policy Director, Department of State Jacob Finkel, Deputy Policy Secretary, Department of State

Cynthia Montgomery, Deputy Chief Counsel, Department of State

Marc Farrell, Regulatory Counsel, Department of State

Dean F. Picarella, Board Counsel, State Board of Crane Operators

State Board of Crane Operators

Worthington, Amber

From: Vazquez, Enid <enid.vazquez@pasenate.com>

Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 10:58 AM **To:** Worthington, Amber; Dimm, Ian

Subject: RE: DELIVERY NOTICE: REGULATIONS: 16A-7104 & 16A-6412

Amber,

Independent Regulatory

Received.

Review Commission

RECEIVED

April 19, 2024

Thank you!

Enid Vazquez

State Senator Lisa M. Boscola One E. Broad Street – Suite 120 Bethlehem, PA 18018 O: 610-868-8667 F: 610-861-2184 www.senatorboscola.com

From: Worthington, Amber <agontz@pa.gov>

Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 8:51 AM

To: Dimm, Ian <Ian.Dimm@pasenate.com>; Kelly, Joseph <joseph.kelly@pasenate.com>; Vazquez, Enid

<enid.vazquez@pasenate.com>

Subject: DELIVERY NOTICE: REGULATIONS: 16A-7104 & 16A-6412

EXTERNAL EMAIL

Please provide a written (email) confirmation of receipt of delivery of the attached rulemakings.

Please be advised that the State Board of Crane Operators and the State Board of Auctioneer Examiners are delivering the below final rulemakings.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

> 16A-7104 – State Board of Crane Operators – <u>Licensure by Endorsement</u>

Final rulemaking of the State Board of Crane Operators relating to Licensure by Endorsement - This final rulemaking is needed to effectuate 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 (relating to licensure by endorsement) for applicants licensed in other jurisdictions where the licensure requirements are substantially equivalent to or exceed those established by the Board. Additionally, 63 Pa.C.S. § 3111 requires the Board to determine the methods of demonstrating competency, including completion of continuing education or experience in the profession or occupation for at least 2 of the 5 years immediately preceding the filing of the application, and must establish, by regulation, the expiration of provisional endorsement licenses. This final rulemaking sets forth the criteria for eligibility for licensure by endorsement, the specific methods required for an applicant to demonstrate competency, and the requirements for granting a provisional endorsement license.

> 16A-6412- State Board of Auctioneer Examiners - <u>Licensure by Endorsement</u>

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Amber A. Worthington, PLS | Legal Office Administrator 2 Office of Chief Counsel | Department of State Governor's Office of General Counsel P.O. Box 69523 | Harrisburg, PA 17106-9523 Office Phone 717.783.7200 | Fax: 717.787.0251 agontz@pa.gov | www.dos.pa.gov

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Independent Regulatory Review Commission

April 19, 2024

Preferred Pronouns: We/Us, They/Them/Theirs

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Worthington, Amber

This has been received.

From: Nicole Sidle <Nsidle@pahousegop.com>

Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 9:47 AM

To: Worthington, Amber; Francesca Summa

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]: DELIVERY NOTICE: REGULATIONS: 16A-7104 & 16A-6412

Hi Amber,

Independent Regulatory Review Commission

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April 19, 2024

Nicole

From: Worthington, Amber <agontz@pa.gov>

Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 8:51 AM

To: Nicole Sidle <Nsidle@pahousegop.com>; Francesca Summa <Fsumma@pahousegop.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]: DELIVERY NOTICE: REGULATIONS: 16A-7104 & 16A-6412

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Amber A. Worthington, PLS | Legal Office Administrator 2 Office of Chief Counsel | Department of State Governor's Office of General Counsel P.O. Box 69523 | Harrisburg, PA 17106-9523 Office Phone 717.783.7200 | Fax: 717.787.0251 agontz@pa.gov | www.dos.pa.gov

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April 19, 2024

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Worthington, Amber

From: Orchard, Kari L. < KOrchard@pahouse.net>

Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 9:35 AM

To: Worthington, Amber; Barton, Jamie; Brett, Joseph D.

Subject: Re: DELIVERY NOTICE: REGULATIONS: 16A-7104 & 16A-6412

Received. Thanks!

RECEIVED

Kari Orchard

Executive Director (D) | House Professional Licensure Committee Chairman Frank Burns, 72nd Legislative District

Independent Regulatory Review Commission

April 19, 2024

From: Worthington, Amber <agontz@pa.gov>

Date: Friday, April 19, 2024 at 8:52 AM

To: Orchard, Kari L. <KOrchard@pahouse.net>, Barton, Jamie <JBarton@pahouse.net>, Brett, Joseph D.

<JBrett@pahouse.net>

Subject: DELIVERY NOTICE: REGULATIONS: 16A-7104 & 16A-6412

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Independent Regulatory Review Commission April 19, 2024

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Worthington, Amber

From: Smeltz, Jennifer < jmsmeltz@pasen.gov>

Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 9:09 AM

To: Worthington, Amber

Subject: RE: DELIVERY NOTICE: REGULATIONS: 16A-7104 & 16A-6412

Received.

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Independent Regulatory Review Commission April 19, 2024

Jen Smeltz
Executive Director
Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee
Office of Senator Pat Stefano
Phone: (717) 787-7175

From: Worthington, Amber <agontz@pa.gov>

Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 8:51 AM

To: Smeltz, Jennifer < jmsmeltz@pasen.gov>

Subject: [WARNING: ATTACHMENT UNSCANNED -AMP]DELIVERY NOTICE: REGULATIONS: 16A-7104 & 16A-6412

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Independent Regulatory Review Commission

April 19, 2024

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