

Jim Doyle
Governor

**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
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TO: Scott Grosz
Legislative Council Special Committee on Building Wisconsin's Work Force

FROM: Larry J. Martin
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Office of the Secretary

The following are responses to the four questions that you submitted to the Department of Regulation and Licensing on behalf of the Legislative Council Special Committee on Building Wisconsin's Workforce:

1. Question: Would it be appropriate to mandate completion of a survey in order for an applicant to complete the application or renewal process?

Answer: No. The completion of a workforce survey as a requirement to obtain a license or license renewal is neither related to professional competence or to consumer protection. These two criteria are the basis for the licensure process. The Department of Regulation and Licensing's mandate and mission is to protect the citizens of Wisconsin by ensuring safe and competent practice of licensed professionals. Mandating completion of workforce surveys takes the Department beyond its stated mission and purpose. Creating a mandate would essentially hold an initial license application or renewing license application hostage until the applicant jumps through a final "hoop" completely unrelated to the professional requirements laid out by statute and individual licensing boards.

2. Question: What level of guidance would the Legislature need to provide with regard to the construction of a labor force survey?

Answer: As the Department's purpose is specific to professional competence and consumer protection, DRL has neither the expertise nor experience in this area. I recommend that you contact the Department of Work Force Development, the Division of Employment and Training. Part of their charter is to oversee all workforce services administered by DWD which includes analyzing and distributing labor market information. The Department of Regulation and Licensing can electronically provide the Division, or any other state agency free of charge, complete contact information (pursuant to State Statute 440.14) for all license holders or subgroups therein in a format useful for surveying.

3. Question: Across its various licenses, how many fields or professions are processed electronically?

Answer: Online renewal of licenses for all 120 credentialing types for our professions are available. However, renewal online (electronically) is not mandated, and thus a significant number are still submitted to the Department on paper. There currently is no online option for initial license applications for any of the regulated professions.

4. Question: What are the tradeoffs between applying data collections to all types of licenses as compared to only those that are administered electronically?

Answer: This question is outside our area of expertise. As previously stated, we do not currently offer an online (electronic) application process for new licensees. We do offer optional online license renewal for all professions. All license applicants submit their initial applications via the mail and a significant number of licensees renew via the mail. We have not compiled or analyzed data to determine the differences in demographics of those who renew electronically versus those who renew via mail. Again, DRL can make available, free of charge, a comprehensive file of **all** license holder contact information to any state agency for the purpose of surveying on workforce issues.