

# LICENSING REFORM BILLS: What Should You Be Asking?

As you and fellow legislators consider the extent of licensing needed for many jobs, the health, safety, and welfare of the public must be considered. ARPL has developed a quick series of questions to help you do just that. Ask these questions of any licensing reform bill that comes across your desk — is the proposal thoughtful, or would it create unintended consequences?

## *Does the bill...*

- ... clearly state the problem it is intended to solve? Is that solution narrowly tailored to solve that problem?
- ... specify what recourse the public would have if harmed? Is the recourse provided adequate?
- ... consider the public at large or merely consumers of private services? Would professionals whose work directly impacts public health and safety be impacted?
- ... distinguish between occupational and professional licensing?
- ... consider the magnitude of harm that could be caused? Is there a distinction drawn between a building collapse and a bad haircut?
- ... look beyond the entry into an occupation or profession and articulate what entities would assume the critical ongoing roles of maintaining and enforcing standards?
- ... consider its impact on already existing licensing and regulatory models that have a proven successful track record?

