



State of California

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Milton Marks Commission on California State
Government Organization and Economy

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February 16, 2022

The Honorable Mike Gipson
1021 O Street, Suite 8110
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 1662

Dear Assemblymember Gipson,

The Little Hoover Commission supports AB 1662, the measure you authored that would allow a prospective applicant that has been convicted of a crime to submit a request for a pre-application determination to a licensing board. The bill would also require the board to determine if the prospective applicant would be disqualified from licensure based on the information submitted with the request, and deliver that determination to the prospective applicant.

In its 2016 report, *Jobs for Californians: Strategies to Ease Occupational Licensing Barriers*, the Commission found that Californians with convictions on their record face several challenges when trying to become licensed. Specifically, the Commission learned that former offenders typically must demonstrate that their convictions were not substantially related to the duties of the occupation, or if they were, that they have been rehabilitated. However, the Commission discovered that it is often up to the licensing entity to determine how “substantially related” and “rehabilitated” are applied. Applicants who are denied a license may engage in an appeals process, which can be confusing and expensive. To help mitigate some of the barriers applicants face, the Commission recommended that the state create an informal appeals process between a license denial and administrative law hearing to allow applicants the opportunity to explain problems with their applications.

AB 1662 would advance the Commission’s recommendation by helping mitigate some of the challenges that Californians with convictions on their record face when trying to become licensed. For this reason, the Little Hoover Commission supports AB 1662. If I, the Commission, or our staff can provide any further assistance as this proposal moves through the legislative process, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Pedro Nava

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