Occupational licenses, like many aspects of workforce development, could benefit from better alignment, which could hopefully be achieved through the proposed task force.

The bill would be stronger if it included some questions for the task force to consider as it reviews governance options. Toward that end, I would recommend a policy brief from The American Institutes for Research on "Human Capital Solutions – Occupational Licensing," which provides several questions that should be considered in any review of occupational licensing.

The brief can be found here:
https://www.air.org/sites/default/files/HumanCapitalOccLicensing-508.pdf

Some of the questions can be paraphrased as follows:

?1. How do training, education or experience requirements" for licensure relate to (a) the "job duties and tasks" and (b) "the intended level of public safety and well-being?"

?2. Are there comparable standards "across similar occupations?"

3. Are the licensure requirements and standards similar to those in other states and do they allow for the "possibility of reciprocity?"

4. Do the "benefits to public health and safety outweigh potential challenges to receiving a license?" In answering this question consider challenges that priority populations (see the definition in Future Ready Oregon) could disproportionately "face because of licensure requirements?"

5. How did the pandemic impact the occupation and the availability of skilled workers.

To these I would add:

6. Is there is a provision for an apprentice or trainee license, so individuals can work under proper supervision and with instruction from experienced workers (aka journey workers in registered apprenticeship) to earn a wage while preparing for the license?

(a) If so, does access (perhaps with some kind of financial aid so it is equitable) to an

apprentice/trainee license satisfy other concerns?

(b) If not, could an apprentice/trainee license be established?