



Legal Services Advocacy Project
970 Raymond Avenue, Suite G-140
St. Paul, MN 55114

March 28, 2022

The Honorable Rob Ecklund, Chair
Labor, Ind., Veterans and Mil. Aff. Fin. & Policy Comm.
Minnesota House of Representatives
409 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Bob Dettmer, Republican Lead
Labor, Ind., Veterans and Mil. Aff. Fin. & Policy Comm.
Minnesota House of Representatives
289 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF 3403 – Preliminary Application Procedure for Occupational Licenses

Dear Chair Ecklund, Lead Dettmer, and Member of the Committee:

The Legal Services Advocacy Project (LSAP) writes express Legal Aid's strong support for HF 3403. LSAP is a statewide division of Legal Aid, advocating on behalf of low-income Minnesotans – including youth, elders, and persons with disabilities – in legislative and administrative forums.

HF 3403 would establish a pre-clearance process for persons with criminal records requiring a state license in order to qualify for a job are seeking by which the applicant can know whether their past record disqualifies them from obtaining the license. This is a common-sense approach to ensuring that job applicants with past records know, up front, whether or not those records will be a barrier to obtaining a desired license. Legal Aid further appreciates the provision – on Lines 2.28 – 2.29 that provides that the decision of the licensor "inform the applicant of any action or additional steps the applicant could take to qualify for a professional or occupational license, registration, or certificate."

Establishing a pre-clearance process is an important step towards transparency in licensing and removing obstacles that make it more difficult for people with criminal records to access jobs. Enactment of this legislation would bring us in line with many other states and benefit many of our clients and LSAP urges its passage by this committee.

Thank you for allowing LSAP the opportunity to write in support of HF 3403.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Elwood".

Ron Elwood
Supervising Attorney