



**Licensure is Your Livelihood -
Let's Talk About It!**



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Disclosures

- Led Academy's licensure efforts
- Consults with Academy affiliates
- Provides expert opinions solicited by licensure boards





Objectives

- 1 Identify the rationale for licensure and the benefits it provides
- 2 Examine the current state of licensure nationally and in West Virginia
- 3 Clarify important aspects and limitations of WV's dietetics licensure law
- 4 Review strategies for maintaining WV licensure in past and for the future



Rationale and Benefits



***Singular* Rationale for Licensure**

Protection of the Public





Benefits of licensure

Provides assurance that licensees meet standards of professional competence to:

- the public
- state and federal governments
- health insurance industry



Benefits of licensure

Enhances professional and financial opportunities for licensees

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Benefits of licensure

Enables RDNs to practice at the height of their scope of practice



Update on State of Licensure

External Threats



0
1

Universal Recognition Laws

Other Legislative Threats



0
2



0
3

Judicial Threats

Spotlight on States



Michigan:
Licensure law
up for vote



Wisconsin:
Upgrade from
certification



Georgia: MPA
consistent &
modernized
to stymie
opposition



New York:
TDOs and
upgrade from
certification



New Mexico:
Upgrade LN
requirements



Montana:
MPA bill to
allay
legislators'
concerns



Nebraska:
Pass MPA-bill,
change from
LMNT



Pennsylvania:
Upgrade to
require license
for MNT, use
of "nutritionist"



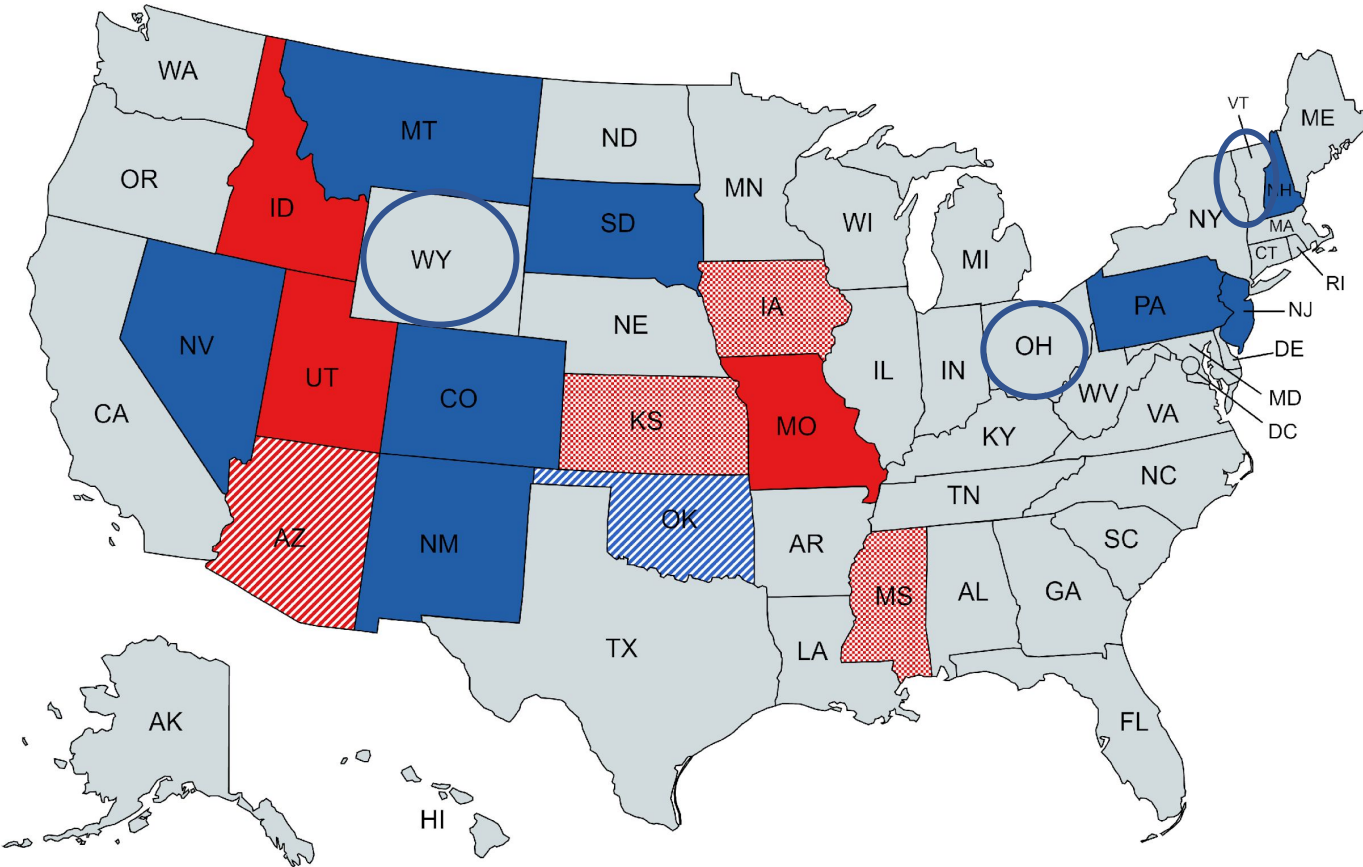
Louisiana:
Board changing
statute








Unity

"I can do things you cannot,
you can do things I cannot;
together we can do great
things." -- Mother Teresa

Universal Licensure Recognition Laws (ULRs)



State Accepts License If:

-  Substantially Equivalent (residency not required)
-  Similar Scope (residency not required)
-  Substantially Equivalent (must be resident)
-  Similar Scope (must be resident)
-  Similar Scope (must be resident) but also available if state offers no license

Why a Compact?



Benefits RDNs

- Better/more access to providers
- New opportunities for telehealth, distance education
- Enhances mobility
- Supports military spouses

Benefits Others

- Improves continuity of care;
- Preserves, strengthens state licensure system
- Simplifies and facilitates states' sharing
 - Verification, investigation, disciplinary info



Focus on West Virginia



PERD Report (September 2021)

Assertions

- WVBOLD “substantially duplicates” CDR
- Complaints are infrequent
- Adequate public protection without WVBOLD

Complaints and Public Protection

Limited authority of WVBOLD:
Can only complain about licensees

Incident Reporting Tool:
www.eatrightpro.org/irt



WVBOLD and CDR Are Fundamentally Different

WVBOLD	CDR
West Virginia	National & International
~541 practitioners	>100,000 practitioners
Singular Focus: Protection of public	Divided Focus: Protection of credential, practitioners, and public
Public entity, with licensure law that enables broader class of non-CDR practitioners	Private entity, would be granted monopoly over dietetics practitioners in WV
Enables licensure over a broader class of dietitians without CDR credential.	No authority over non-CDR credentialed practitioners
Self-supported by license fees; no additional funding from state	Supported by Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and credentialing fees
Obligated to report violations to the National Practitioner Data Bank, which tracks adverse actions related to health care practitioners	Does not report to the National Practitioner Data Bank



Trouble with PERD

Legal Risks

Without a license, dietitians will lose the ability to autonomously practice, see their existing scope of practice reduced, lose professional autonomy, and run the risk of a \$10,000 fine and 5 years in prison for violating the WV Medical Practice Act.





West Virginia is NOT Virginia

Virginia law provides more flexibility for unlicensed practitioners than West Virginia; dietitians practice near the height of their scope of practice

Virginia Medical Practice Act has exceptions relevant to dietitians unavailable in WV





Thank you.

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DECISION- MAKERS

West Virginia
Legislature

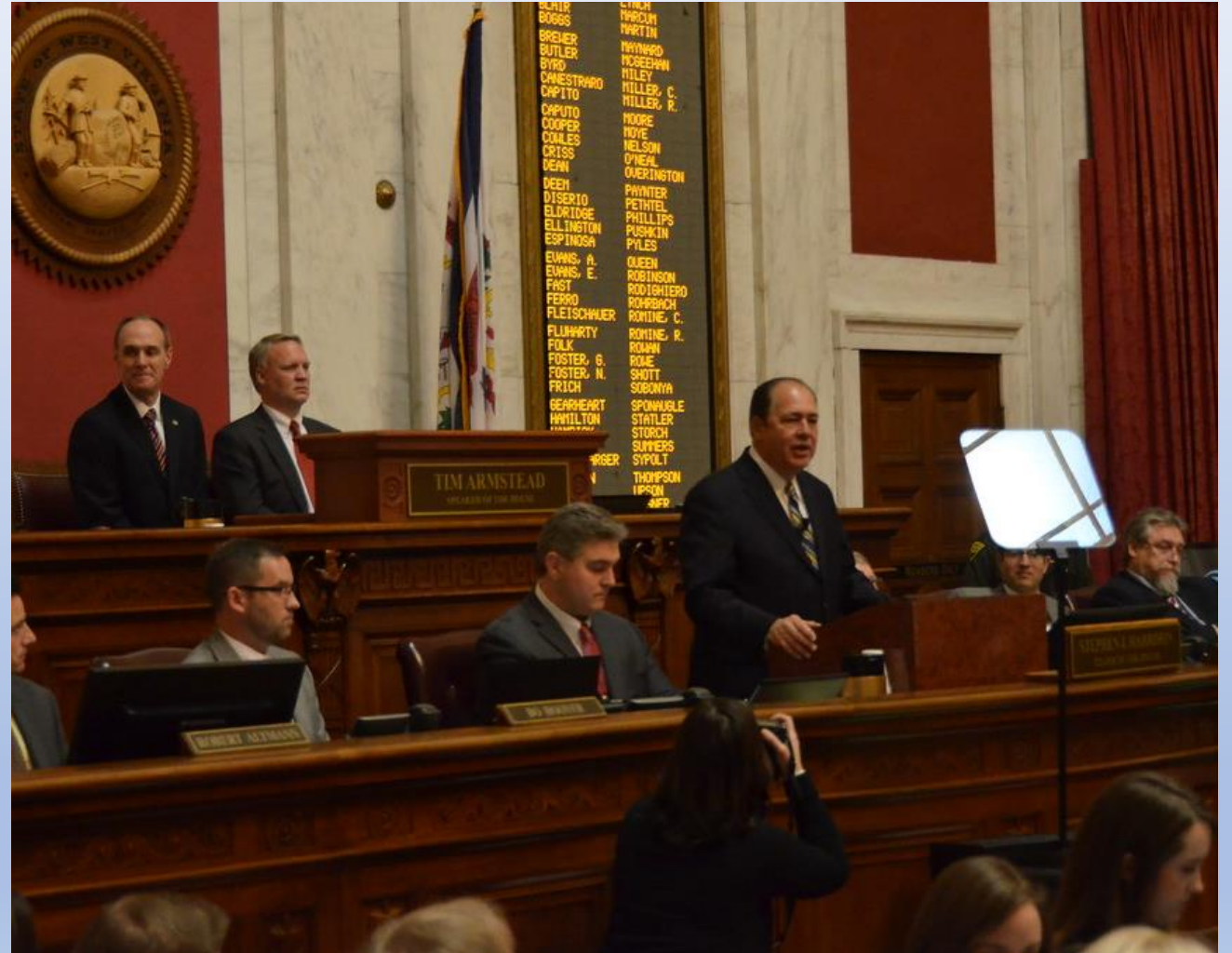
- State Senate
- House of Delegates

Who ?

A “Citizen Legislature” represents West Virginia.

While lawmakers are elected by the people to serve as their representative voice in government, they are also professionals in other occupations.

This is known as a part-time Legislature.



Legislative Members

- Live in your neighborhood
 - Go to church with you
 - Shop at the same local stores
- Members are discussing YOUR profession:
 - Are you a part of those discussions?
 - How do you become a part of those discussion?

ADVOCACY 101

- When elected officials don't hear from their constituents, they could easily assume that issues aren't important to their voters. That is why it is imperative that advocates speak up regularly by letting key decision makers know their positions.

How To Engage with Legislators

- There are several ways to engage with legislators:
 - Remember most likely you know more on the topics pertaining to your profession
 - Best to engage during the off season
 - Legislative season and off -season timeframe
 - Discussion – approach – educate
 - Personal approach, direct & to the point
 - Why engage?
 - Who engage with: people and positions

WVAND

- YOUR VOICE
- COLLECTIVE VOICE
- PROTECT THE PROFESSION
- ADVANCE THE PROFESSION
- PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE FIGHT 21,22,23.....
 - ELIMINATE THE BOARD
 - LICENSURE WEAKENING, OPPORTUNITIES FOR OTHER?

Legislative Staff

- Those that have the ear of the members
- Accessible
- Valuable resource



West Virginia Legislature

1ST SESSION OF THE 86TH LEGISLATURE



- <http://www.wvlegislature.gov/index.cfm>

YOU...

- YOUR VOICE
- YOUR PROFESSION

- BE ACTIVE, ENGAGED
- IT DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE, YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE
- SHOW UP, BE HEARD
- PROTECT AND IMPROVE

Day At the Capitol 2024

- When....
- Mark your calendars

THANK YOU....

- Thank you for allowing me to work with you to be your voice