

PROFESSIONAL & OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BOARD REPORT

FISCAL YEARS 2022-2023



Published June of 2024

Montana Department of Labor & Industry
Employment Standards Division
P.O. Box 200513
Helena MT, 59620

The data in this report is accurate with the exception of the notations contained herein.

LETTER FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR



Welcome to the Professional and Occupational Licensing Board Report for Fiscal Years (FY) 2022 and 2023. Inside the report you will find information about the [Employment Standards Division \(ESD\)](#), at the Montana Department of Labor & Industry, and its administratively attached licensing boards. The report is prepared in cooperation with each professional and occupational licensing board. The report outlines specific and general trends in the licensed workforce, board and departmental operations.

Specifically, the report contains a description of the Professional Licensing Bureau and the operations of the boards during the last biennium. The report also includes a breakdown of revenue and expenditures, legislation, court actions, and statistical reports of the boards' activities. Finally, the report lists statistics regarding the number of complaints on licensees received and reviewed by each board.

The Department of Labor & Industry is committed to working with the boards and programs, ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Montana. During this time, we performed work for 32 individual legislatively mandated boards and continue to contribute positively to the State's workforce development and business community.

I hope you find this report to be a valuable resource and overview of our work. The Department will continue to actively work at improving operational efficiencies, customer service and stakeholder relationships while ensuring Montanans are protected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Strauss", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eric Strauss



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PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

Title 2, Ch. 15, part 17 - Establishes the Department of Labor and Industry and its attached licensing boards.

Title 37, 23, 39, 50 - Governs the licensing boards attached to the department.

DIVISION DESCRIPTION

The Employment Standards Division is one (1) of five (5) divisions in the Department of Labor & Industry. It is currently organized into five (5) bureaus, four (4) of which are directly involved in administering licensing and compliance activities for the boards and programs.

The Professional Licensing Bureau, through its License Processing Section provides all licensing and renewal functions for licensing boards and programs. The Licensing Board Section provides professional and administrative assistance to all boards and programs by preparing agendas, facilitating meetings of the boards, providing information to the public and board members, and other administrative and financial responsibilities.

The Operations Bureau, through its customer service unit, provides direct support to the public on subjects related to professional licensing.

The Compliance Bureau, through its Audit Section, conducts random audits related to board and program requirements, such as continuing education, maintenance of annual certifications of licensees, and internal compliance audits of division policies and procedures. The Inspection Unit of the Bureau conducts inspections of licensees to ensure compliance with board regulations. It also educates professionals to ensure that potential issues.

The Investigations & Mediation Bureau, through its Professional Licensing Investigation and Compliance Unit provides technical and administrative support to all boards and programs regarding misconduct, practice complaints, inspections, and investigations.

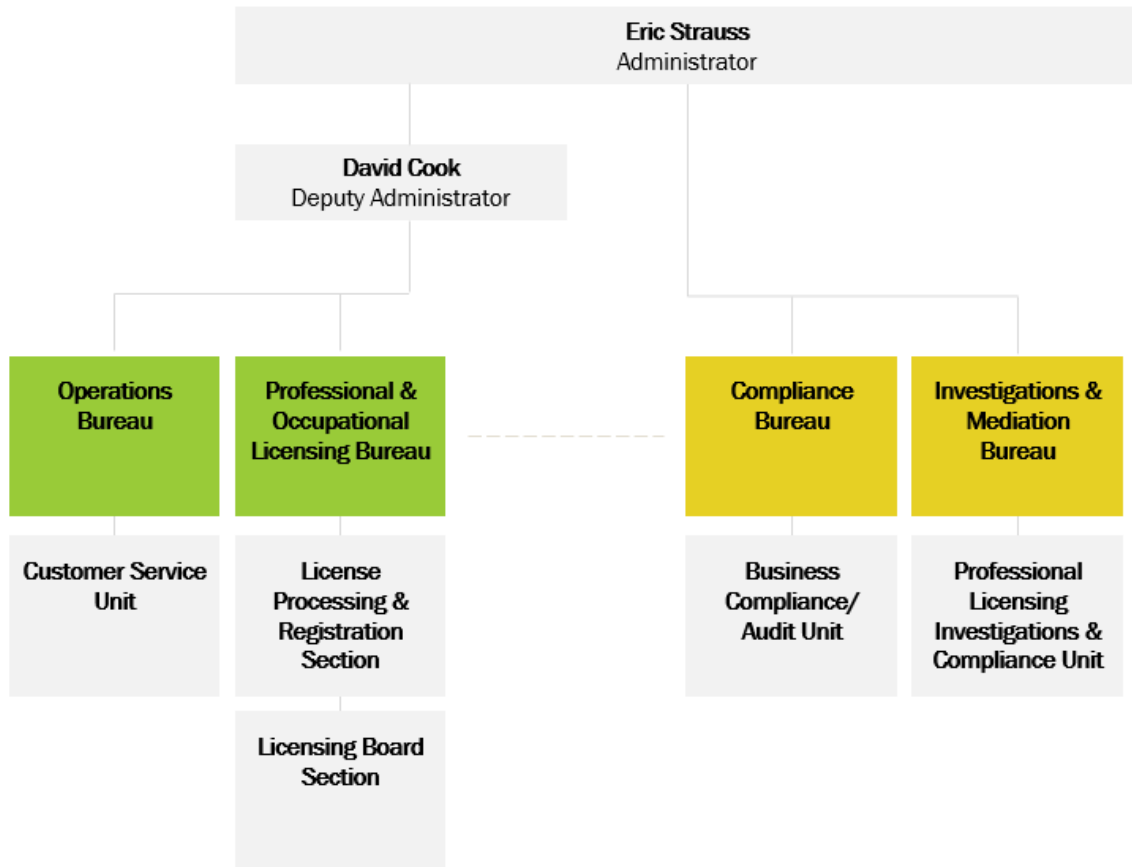
DIVISION OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the Professional Licensing Bureau is to facilitate board processes by providing professional, technical, and administrative services. In addition, division staff provide standardized, streamlined, and efficient processes for all boards and programs. This enables boards to carry out their policy making duties and responsibilities to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the State of Montana while ensuring the public is provided an opportunity to observe and participate in their deliberations.

The bureau works closely with the department's legal unit. Together they ensure licensees are complying with laws by investigating allegations made against licensees, preparing administrative rule modifications, and explaining statutory requirements.



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART *

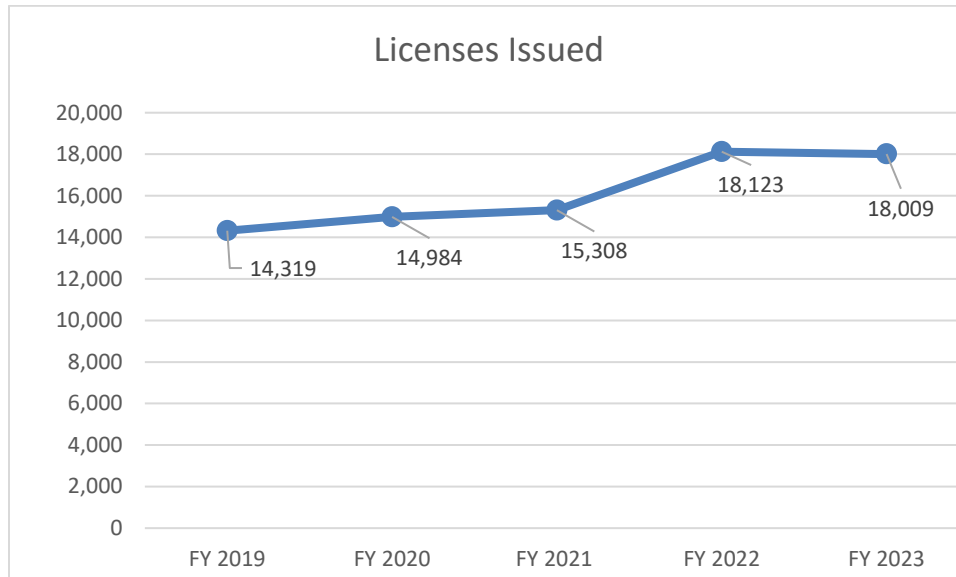


* The Employment Standards Division (ESD) serves multiple programs beyond Professional & Occupational Licensing; the above chart embodies only the functions of the division directly involved in professional and occupational licensing, as noted on the previous page.



TOTAL NEW LICENSES BY FISCAL YEAR

The number of new licenses issued in Montana has grown by ~20% from 2019 to 2023.



**The data above represents the total number of new licensees issued during a fiscal year. The Governor's Report for FY 2020/2021 included an error in the data for licenses issued in FY 2021, the report incorrectly stated there were 19,612 licenses issued. The correct number for FY 2021, 15,308, appears above.*

Background

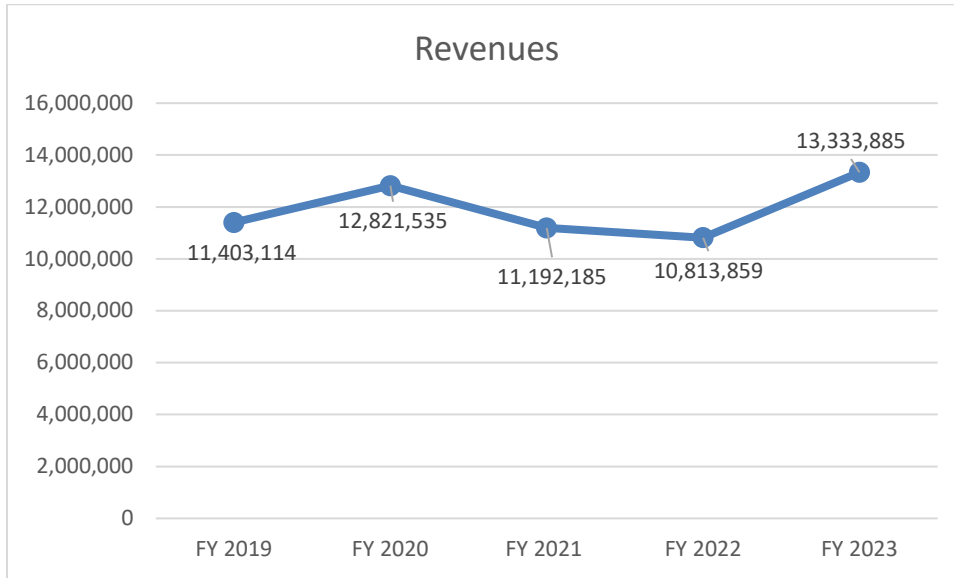
Boards set licensure requirements for those individuals and businesses who wish to work in their professions or occupations. The fundamental purpose of the licensure requirements is to ensure those individuals have the appropriate knowledge, skills, and abilities. These requirements provide for public safety. All boards require an application be made to the department. The applicant must meet the qualifications and demonstrate the minimum competencies established by statute or board rule. While each profession or occupation has its own unique qualifications, common requirements are listed below:

- Name, contact information and other necessary demographic data;
- Proof they have qualifications such as education, experience, and age requirements;
- Proof they have passed appropriate national, state and/or regional examinations;

Detailed requirements for each license type can be found on each specific board website.

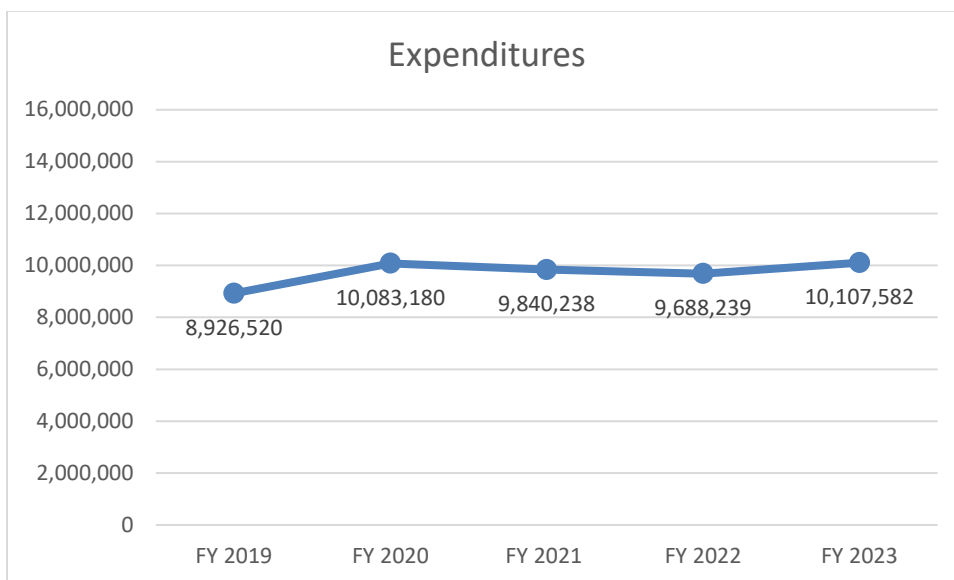


REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES



Revenues have increased approximately 15% and expenditures have increased by 4% over the last biennium. Revenue is created by charging the license applicant and licensee a variety of fees such as application and renewal fees. Each board is self-supported, taking no funds from the state general fund, through the fees collected. Boards may not maintain more than two times their annual appropriation set by the legislature. Monies collected are deposited in each board's special revenue account, with the Public Accountant Board maintaining an Enterprise Fund through the Department.

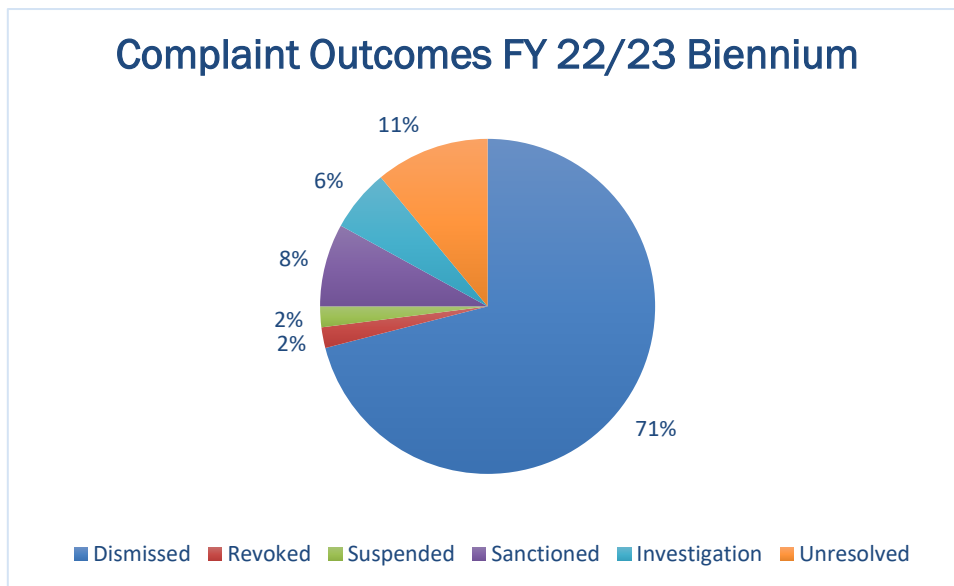
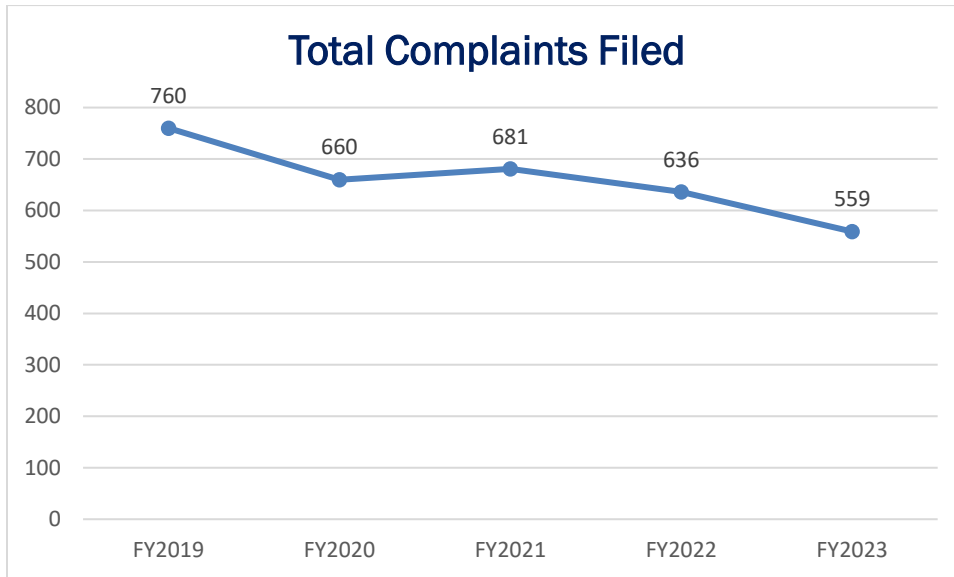
The largest expenditure of each board, like many businesses, is personal services - payroll and benefits for the employees who provide the administrative services to the board. Other expenditures include information technology, legal representation, office equipment, rent, supplies, meeting costs, association fees, and board member compensation.





COMPLIANCE STATISTICS

In FY22 and FY23 the boards received a total of new 1,195 complaints. The graph above is a visual representation of the data throughout this report. Allegations of unprofessional conduct or illegal activity can be filed against a licensee by anyone. The Compliance Unit receives, processes, and investigates information submitted and presents the information to the relevant licensing board for a determination. Each board determines the merit of the allegations and the appropriate level of discipline to administer, if any.



[Click Here to Find More Information on Filing a Complaint](#)



BOARD OF ALTERNATIVE HEALTHCARE

althealth.mt.gov | dlibsdahc@mt.gov

As of 6/30/2023, the Board of Alternative Health Care serves 361 Naturopathic Physicians, Acupuncturists, Direct-Entry Midwives, and Direct-Entry Midwife Apprentice licensees in its mission to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of Montana’s citizens. The board continues to monitor national standards of practice and streamline processes to align with departmental standards.

Activities				
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 22	0	72	\$115,365.00	\$72,121.03
FY 23	0	202	\$12,500.00	\$50,617.97

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	61	55	283	96%	96%
FY 23	35	25	182	96%	96%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	6	0	1	4	1	0
FY 23	11	0	0	7	2	1

Board Staff: Jay Unsworth | jay.unsworth@mt.gov | (406) 841-2352

2023 Legislative Bills:

- [HB 392](#) expanded the ability for Direct-Entry Midwives to obtain and administer certain drugs.
- [HB655](#) requires rulemaking to accommodate Medicaid coverage for low-risk home births.
- [SB100](#) amends the Naturopathic Physician Formulary List requirements.
- [SB 101](#) generally revised naturopathic in-office dispensing laws.
- [SB 453](#) transfers the practice of Acupuncture from Board of Medical Examiners to Board of Alternative Health Care.

Court Cases: None

Changes to Board: There have been no substantive changes to the board’s operations.



BOARD OF ARCHITECTS AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

architect.mt.gov | dlibsdark@mt.gov

As of 6/30/2023, the Board of Architects and Landscape Architects serves 2,053 licensees. The Montana Board of Architects and Landscape Architects serves the public by regulating licensees for the purpose of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Montana. The mission of the board is to ensure that rules and regulations are in place to protect the public by regulating architects and landscape architects in the State of Montana. The board strives to make all the necessary regulatory changes to ensure portability of licensure and reduce unnecessary barriers to licensure as directed by the Governor through his Red Tape Relief Initiative, while maintaining the protection of the public through regulations.

Activities				
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 22	0	81	\$131,245.00	\$85,115.35
FY 23	0	174	\$53,020.00	\$97,385.07

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	209	223	1,870	98%	94%
FY 23	225	225	2,485	98%	96%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	2	0	0	2	0	0
FY 23	0	0	0	0	0	0

Board Staff: Amy Pfarr | Amy.Pfarr@mt.gov | (406) 841-2037

2023 Legislative Bills: None

Court Cases: None

Changes to Board: None



BOARD OF ATHLETIC TRAINERS

athletictrainer.mt.gov | dlibsdatr@mt.gov

As of 6/30/2023, the Board of Athletic Trainers served 161 licensees with a mission of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Montana.

Activities				
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 22	0	10	\$16,240.00	\$15,700.30
FY 23	0	43	\$17,300.00	\$28,312.71

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	24	26	152	99%	100%
FY 23	22	28	162	99%	100%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	0	0	0	0	0	0
FY 23	1	0	0	1	0	1

Board Staff: Pam Hakala | pamella.hakala@mt.gov | (406) 841-2348

2023 Legislative Bills: None

Court Cases: None

Changes to Board: There have been no substantive changes to the board's operations.



BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

bbh.mt.gov | dlibsdbbh@mt.gov

As of 6/30/2023, the Board of Behavioral Health served 9,233 licensees. The Board of Behavioral Health issues 13 types of professional licenses. The board's mission is to protect the health, safety, and well-being of Montana citizens through the regulation and oversight of licensed clinical professional counselors, licensed clinical social workers, licensed marriage and family therapists, licensed addiction counselors, and certified behavioral health peer support specialists.

Activities				
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 22	0	361	\$851,684.50	\$710,802.52
FY 23	0	351	\$919,374.48	\$820,656.21

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	950	1,202	4,721	96%	93%
FY 23	1,039	1,151	5,150	97%	94%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	84	2	0	65	2	5
FY 23	110	1	1	90	1	5

Board Staff: Patti Renenger | patricia.renenger@mt.gov | (406) 841-2370

2023 Legislative Bills:

- [HB 101](#) revised licensing reciprocity for behavioral health care licensees.
- [HB 137](#) consolidated multiple chapters of code affiliated with the board into a single chapter for clarity and ease of access.
- [SB 425](#) updated Licensed Addiction Counselor qualifications including lowering the number of required hours to obtain licensure.

Court Cases: None

Changes to Board:

- There were no substantive changes to board operations.



BOARD OF CHIROPRACTORS

chiropractor.mt.gov | dlibschi@mt.gov

As of 6/30/2023, the Board of Chiropractors served 512 active licensees for the purpose of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of Montana citizens. The board continues to review potential new modalities which have become recognized procedures in the scope of chiropractic. The board uses the concept of relevant regulation to identify and repeal overburdensome and outdated regulations. The board continues to review other states to determine if they are substantially equivalent to Montana's regulations in order to expedite licensure of applicants.

Activities				
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 22	0	42	\$122,480.00	\$67,444.85
FY 23	0	52	\$121,485.00	\$90,476.40

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	50	61	532	94%	98%
FY 23	30	38	556	94%	97%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	3	0	0	1	1	1
FY 23	4	0	0	4	0	0

Board Staff: Jed Breker | jbreker@mt.gov | (406) 841-2025

2023 Legislative Bills:

- No specific changes to board statutes

Court Cases: None

Changes to Board:

- The Board continues to evaluate improvements and has begun rulemaking to standardize its regulations as well as reduce inefficiencies under the Governor's Red Tape Relief Initiative.



BOARD OF CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE PRACTITIONERS

cls.mt.gov | dlibsdccls@mt.gov

As of 6/30/2023, the Board of Clinical Laboratory Science Practitioners served 1,042 licensees for purpose of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Montana. The board ensures the protection of the public by enforcing and continually updating its laws and rules; keeping informed at a national level; and seeking public participation.

Activities				
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 22	0	47	\$115,180.00	\$91,009.52
FY 23	14	55	\$127,675.00	\$67,704.13

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	164	206	943	95%	95%
FY 23	249	290	976	97%	95%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	3	1	3	2	0	0
FY 23	3	0	5	2	0	0

Board Staff: Scott Magill | smagill@mt.gov | (406) 841-2350

2023 Legislative Bills: None

Court Cases: None

Changes to Board: None



BOARD OF BARBERS AND COSMETOLOGISTS

cosmetology.mt.gov | dlibsdcos@mt.gov

As of 6/30/2023, the Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists served 13,327 licensees. The Board issues eleven types of licenses for people and facilities, including schools. The board's mission is to protect the health, safety and well-being of Montana citizens through the regulation and oversight of barbering, barbering nonchemical, cosmetology, electrology, esthetics, and manicuring.

Activities				
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 22	3,431	30	\$789,425.00	\$852,265.86
FY 23	4,333	27	\$918,670.00	\$724,368.16

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	1,300	1,484	7,820	91%	90%
FY 23	1,344	1,561	8,566	91%	91%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	39	0	0	18	20	1
FY 23	34	0	5	12	12	5

Board Staff: Lucy Richards | lurichards@mt.gov | (406) 841-2394

2023 Legislative Bills:

- [HB 353](#) exempted natural hair braiding services from any licensure requirements under the board.
- [SB 166](#) exempted barbering services performed within a correctional facility from licensure requirements.

Court Cases: 2019-COS-23, First Judicial District; CDV-25-2023-460

Changes to Board:

- The board continues its ongoing work to review its regulations in order to reduce unnecessary red tape and barriers to licensure while maintaining regulations and enhancing processes that protect the health and safety of the public utilizing these services in Montana.



BOARD OF DENTISTRY

dentistry.mt.gov | dlibsdden@mt.gov

As of 6/30/2023, the Board of Dentistry served 1,883 licensees for purpose of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Montana. The Board of Dentistry issues licenses to dentists, hygienists, and denturists. The board's mission is to protect the health, safety and well-being of Montana citizens through the regulation of the practices of dentistry, dental hygiene, and denturistry. The board continues its ongoing work to review its regulations in order to reduce unnecessary red tape and barriers to licensure while maintaining regulations and enhancing processes that protect the health and safety of the public utilizing these services in Montana.

Activities				
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 22	0	80	\$277,567.50	\$366,152.82
FY 23	0	6	\$273,326.00	\$261,581.14

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	165	205	1,837	98%	90%
FY 23	160	196	1,895	98%	94%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	24	0	0	24	0	2
FY 23	18	0	0	16	1	2

Board Staff: Lucy Richards | lurichards@mt.gov | (406) 841-2394

2023 Legislative Bills: None

Court Cases: None

Changes to Board:

- In FY22 board reduced its licensing fees and updated its administrative rules to allow dentists to qualify for licensure using simulated patient-based clinical exams in addition to patient-based exams. This change aligns with current licensing trends across the country as well as the evolution of the testing industry and it provides more testing options for applicants.



BOARD OF ELECTRICAL

electrician.mt.gov | dlibsdele@mt.gov

As of 6/30/2023, the Montana State Electrical Board served 6,466 licensees for the purpose of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Montana regarding the practice of electrical work. The board’s mission is to implement regulations within the board’s statutory authority to effectively license members of the electrical industry and to provide protection of the public through regulations that are lawful, clear, and fair.

Activities				
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 22	15	21	\$335,044.58	\$372,437.36
FY 23	26	231	\$266,025.00	\$462,319.05

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	541	804	2,783	92%	78%
FY 23	533	770	1,871	86%	83%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	21	0	0	12	5	0
FY 23	22	0	0	11	4	1

Board Staff: Kelly Welsh | kelly.welsh@mt.gov | (406) 841-2258

2023 Legislative Bills: None

Court Cases: None

Changes to Board:

- The board and department have been focused on several priorities including strategic planning to identify goals, rulemaking to implement legislation, streamlining the processing of applications, and increasing outreach to stakeholders to develop professional relationships and empower Montanans through work and opportunity. This work includes the finalization of the first comprehensive revision rule package in some time under the Governor’s Red Tape Relief Initiative.



BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE

funeral.mt.gov | dlibsdfnr@mt.gov

As of 6/30/2023, the Board of Funeral Service served 408 licensees. The mission of the board is to protect the health, safety, and well-being of Montana citizens through the regulation and oversight of funeral industry professionals and facilities.

Activities				
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 22	45	267	\$357,870.95	\$105,445.54
FY 23	159	240	\$356,762.00	\$91,170.23

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	46	58	373	93%	74%
FY 23	53	51	381	95%	71%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	2	0	0	1	0	0
FY 23	5	0	0	3	0	0

Board Staff: Susie Osborne | susie.osborne@mt.gov | (406) 841-2359

2023 Legislative Bills:

- Under [SB 244](#), effective July 1, 2023, mortician interns are no longer required to have passed the national examination in order to qualify for an intern license. This change allows current students to serve their internship at the same time as completing their education.

Court Cases: None

Changes to Board:

- Board revenues remain high to the legislature appropriating funds from death certificate fees paid in the 2021 legislative session.



BOARD OF HEARING AID DISPENSERS

hearingaid.mt.gov | dlibsddhad@mt.gov

As of 6/30/2023, the Board of Hearing Aid Dispensers currently served 69 licensees for purpose of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Montana.

Activities				
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 22	0	8	\$44,360.00	\$50,003.12
FY 23	0	13	\$48,930.00	\$46,716.12

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	19	18	63	98%	67%
FY 23	11	16	71	96%	50%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	1	0	0	1	0	0
FY 23	0	0	0	0	0	0

2023 Legislative Bills:

- [SB 456](#) Changed the operational structure of the board into a licensing program effective October 1, 2023.

Court Cases: None

Changes to Board:

- The Department has completed implementation for transition of the board to a program including a comprehensive review of the regulations related to hearing aid dispensers in line with the Governor’s Red Tape Relief Initiative.



BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY

massagetherapists.mt.gov | dlibsdlt@mt.gov

As of 6/30/2023, the Board of Massage Therapy served 1,943 licensees. The mission of the Board is to protect the health, safety, and well-being of Montana citizens through the regulation and oversight of the massage therapy industry.

Activities				
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 22	0	45	\$206,505.00	\$95,772.67
FY 23	0	129	\$206,505.00	\$125,941.11

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	193	235	1,830	94%	84%
FY 23	202	224	1,865	93%	81%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	2	0	1	0	1	0
FY 23	6	3	0	2	0	2

Board Staff: Susie Osborne | susie.osborne@mt.gov | (406) 841-2359

2023 Legislative Bills: None

Court Cases: None

Changes to Board: None



BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

medicalboard.mt.gov | dlibsmed@mt.gov

As of 6/30/2023, the Board of Medical Examiners served 16,049 licensees for purpose of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Montana.

Activities				
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 22	0	178	\$1,068,236.00	\$981,548.22
FY 23	0	167	\$2,555,401.00	\$1,213,161.71

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	3,054	4,014	6,548	92%	65%
FY 23	3,157	3,999	7,147	90%	66%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	127	3	2	100	5	1
FY 23	77	3	0	59	3	5

Board Staff: Sam Hunthausen | samuel.hunthausen@mt.gov | (406) 841-2360

2023 Legislative Bills:

- [HB313](#) changed physician assistant supervision to collaboration and permits exemption to collaborative practice agreements following 8000 hours of post-graduate clinical experience.
- [HB610](#) expanded Emergency Care Provider licensee scope to include practice within healthcare facilities.
- [SB 453](#) removed jurisdiction over Acupuncturists from the board to the Alternative Healthcare Board.
- [SB564](#) amended the Montana Health Corps Act which provides limited liability immunity for certain licensees providing free or reduce rate services.

Court Cases: None

Changes to Board:

- Initial and renewal fees were reduced by approximately 25%.
- Emergency Care Provider (ECP) licensure has been standardized to align examination and continued competency standards with the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) requirements through [MAR 24-156-92](#).
- [MAR 24-156-93](#) reduced regulatory complexity and redundancy as part of the Governors Red Tape Relief Initiative by repealing/reorganizing 29 administrative rules. It also included rulemaking to address acupuncturist examination and point injection therapies.



BOARD OF NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS

nha.mt.gov | dlibsdnha@mt.gov

As of 6/30/2023, the Board of Nursing Home Administrators served 192 licensees for purpose of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Montana. The Board will continue to research the license portability with other states and to review of its laws and rules to assure that qualifications are adequate and meet the national trends while addressing the needs of the rural communities.

Activities				
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 22	0	15	\$82,130.00	\$74,082.54
FY 23	0	23	\$102,885.00	\$78,511.03

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	59	114	221	95%	78%
FY 23	94	179	223	94%	87%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	1	0	0	1	0	0
FY 23	1	0	0	0	0	0

Board Staff: Scott Magill | smagill@mt.gov | (406) 841-2350

2023 Legislative Bills: None

Court Cases: None

Changes to Board: None



BOARD OF NURSING

nurse.mt.gov | nurse@mt.gov

As of 6/30/2023, the Board of Nursing served 25,455 licensees. The mission of the Board of Nursing is to protect the health, safety and well-being of Montana citizens through the licensing of competent nursing professionals and by the regulation of the practice to promote the delivery of quality health care.

Activities				
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 22	0	490	\$1,876,975.00	\$1,595,083.38
FY 23	0	365	\$1,945,535.33	\$1,580,290.34

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	3,761	5,038	10,524	96%	93%
FY 23	3,703	5,551	11,575	97%	95%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	105	4	5	60	7	10
FY 23	87	6	1	48	1	14

Board Staff: Missy Poortenga | melissa.poortenga@mt.gov | (406) 841-2380

2023 Legislative Bills:

- [HB 154](#) removed licensure requirements for medication aides (agency bill)
- [HB 655](#) requires Medicaid coverage of home births attended by midwives (third-party bill)
- [SB 99](#) – provide for a youth health protection act (third-party bill)

Court Cases: None

Changes to Board:

- The In FY22, the Board completed a comprehensive review of their rules under the Governor’s Red Tape Relief Initiative, amending 29 rules to improve clarity and accuracy, creating 2 new rules and repealing 30 rules that were duplicative or unnecessary.



BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

optometry.mt.gov | dlibsdopt@mt.gov

As of 6/30/2023, the Board of Optometry served 294 licensees. The Montana Board of Optometry serves the public by regulating licensees for the purpose of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Montana. The Mission of the Board is to ensure that rules and regulations are in place to protect the public by regulating Optometry in the State of Montana. The Board strives to make all the necessary regulatory changes to ensure portability of licensure and reduce unnecessary barriers to licensure as directed by the Governor through his Red Tape Relief Initiative, while maintaining the protection of the public through regulations.

Activities				
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 22	0	1	\$57,815.00	\$26,856.06
FY 23	0	3	\$58,090.00	\$32,239.91

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	22	34	270	98%	82%
FY 23	25	18	292	98%	78%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	1	0	0	1	0	0
FY 23	2	0	0	2	0	0

Board Staff: Victoria Pagan | victoria.pagan2@mt.gov | (406) 841-2367

2023 Legislative Bills: None

Court Cases: None

Changes to Board: None



BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE

ot.mt.gov | dlibsdotp@mt.gov

As of 6/30/2023, the Board of Occupational Therapy Practice served 764 active licensees for the purpose of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of Montana citizens. The board continues to review potential new modalities which have become recognized procedures in the scope of occupational therapy. The board uses the concept of relevant regulation to identify and repeal overburdensome and outdated regulations. The board continues to review States to determine if they are substantially equivalent to Montana's regulations.

Activities				
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 22	0	59	\$102,040.00	\$32,668.61
FY 23	0	62	\$30,090.00	\$25,353.18

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	120	150	672	98%	87%
FY 23	134	140	740	99%	96%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	1	0	0	1	1	0
FY 23	0	0	0	0	0	0

Board Staff: Jed Breker | jbreker@mt.gov | (406) 841-2025

2023 Legislative Bills:

- [SB155](#) enacted the Interstate Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact. The law is directed at provider more mobility across the country for practitioners.

Court Cases: None

Changes to Board:

- See SB 155 update above. The legislation requires all new applicants to undergo a background check when obtaining licensure. The board is continuing to work with the compact to implement the system fully which is expected to begin implementing privileges in 2025.



BOARD OF OUTFITTERS

outfitter.mt.gov | dlibsout@mt.gov

As of 6/30/2023, the Board of Outfitters served 3,261 licensees. The mission of the board is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Montana citizens through the regulation and oversight of outfitter industry professionals.

Activities				
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 22	26	88	\$201,644.00	\$346,833.32
FY 23	55	216	\$429,405.75	\$312,638.11

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	596	651	3,377	92%	48%
FY 23	573	617	3,324	92%	48%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	21	1	0	12	8	0
FY 23	29	0	1	22	3	1

Board Staff: Dan Ritter | danritter@mt.gov | (406) 841-2244

2023 Legislative Bills: None

Court Cases: None

Changes to Board: None



BOARD OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

publicaccountant.mt.gov | dlibsdpac@mt.gov

As of 6/30/2023, the Montana Board of Public Accountants served 2,959 licensees and firms for the purpose of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Montana. The mission of the board is to ensure that rules and regulations are in place to protect the public by regulating public accountants and firms in the State of Montana. The board strives to make all the necessary regulatory changes to ensure portability of licensure and reduce unnecessary barriers, while maintaining the protection of the public through regulations.

Activities				
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 22	0	381	\$402,341.19	\$121,293.82
FY 23	0	33	\$462,874.73	\$142,932.26

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	287	24*	3422	98%	71%*
FY 23	295	27*	3,565	99%	63%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	5	0	0	4	1	0
FY 23	6	0	0	3	1	1

*Individual applications for this board are only processed by the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA). This report only shows firm registration applications. Renewals are processed by the department and numbers are inclusive of all licensees.

Board Staff: Jason Steffins | jsteffins@mt.gov | (406) 841-2329

2023 Legislative Bills:

- [HB 292](#) ended the sunset provision for the board’s enterprise funding initially established in 2015.

Court Cases: None

Changes to Board: None



BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS

engineer.mt.gov | dlibsdpels@mt.gov

The Board of Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors served 10,082 licensees. The board works to accomplish its mission of protecting the public through the performance of three key functions: licensure, discipline, and regulation. The Board issues professional engineer licenses, professional land surveyor licenses, and engineer-surveyor licenses. It also issues engineer intern certificates, land surveyor intern certificates, and certificates of authorization to firms offering professional services in Montana.

Activities				
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 22	0	14	\$182,767.50	\$259,151.47
FY 23	0	173	\$164,125.00	\$328,318.04

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	943	1,186	8,527	98%	92%
FY 23	1,097	1,308	1,569	98%	93%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	4	0	0	4	0	0
FY 23	2	0	0	0	0	1

Board Staff: Sam Hunthausen | samuel.hunthausen@mt.gov | (406) 841-2360

2023 Legislative Bills:

- The board supported [SB 398](#) which established a Montana Coordinate System for property. The law is not under the jurisdiction of the board.

Court Cases: None

Changes to Board:

- License renewal fees were 100% abated in FY2022.
- Initial application and license renewal fees were reduced by approximately 25% through rule changes in [MAR 24-183-45](#).
- The experience-only pathway to licensure as a professional land surveyor sunset on October 1, 2022, based on legislation that passed during the 2015 Session.
- The Board reduced the length of its “Laws and Rules Application Questionnaire” to 21 questions down from 38 questions reducing the burden on new applicants.



BOARD OF PHARMACY

pharmacy.mt.gov | mpdr.mt.gov | dlibsdpba@mt.gov | dlibsdpdr@mt.gov

As of 6/30/2023, the Board of Pharmacy served 6,888 licensees to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Montana regarding the practice of pharmacy. The board also administers the Montana Prescription Drug Registry (MPDR). The MPDR program is an online tool to provide a list of controlled substance prescriptions to health care providers for improving patient safety, including the identification of possible misuse and/or diversion of controlled substances.

Activities						
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	MPDR	Expenditures	MPDR
FY 22	457	103	\$1,086,510.25	\$385,770.00	\$1,240,637.27	\$192,819.59
FY 23	524	126	\$1,156,950.03	\$431,025.00	\$1,271,548.86	\$219,863.22

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	1,264	1,412	6,259	99%	69%
FY 23	1,068	1,475	6,558	99%	81%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	20	0	0	17	1	2
FY 23	20	0	0	15	0	3

Board Staff: Marcie Bough | mbough@mt.gov | (406) 841-2371

2023 Legislative Bills:

The Board is responsible for implementing the following bills, but none were bills offered by the Board or Department:

- [HB 710](#) revised pharmacist laws relating to immunizations.
- [SB 67](#) generally revised scheduling of dangerous drugs.
- [SB 101](#) generally revised naturopathic in-office dispensing laws.
- [SB 112](#) revised pharmacist prescribing authority.
- [SB 284](#) requires reporting of drugs taken by or prescribed to a victim of suicide.
- [SB 561](#) created veterinary retail facility permits.

Court Cases: None



BOARD OF PHARMACY

pharmacy.mt.gov | mpdr.mt.gov | dlibsdpdpha@mt.gov | dlibsdpdmpdr@mt.gov

Changes to Board:

- The Board collaborated with the Board of Veterinary Medicine to implement SB 561 to create an educational packet and two new license types for veterinary retail facilities and veterinary dispensing technicians.
- The Board and the Department continue to collaborate on MPDR activities and expand outreach and educational opportunities.
- The Board issued multiple rule changes to implement legislation, address evolving practice issues, and clarify existing rules.



BOARD OF PLUMBERS

plumber.mt.gov | dlibsplu@mt.gov

The Montana Board of Plumbers serves 1,613 licensees and med gas endorsees for the purpose of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Montana. The mission of the board is to ensure that rules and regulations are in place to protect the public by regulating plumbers and medical gas endorsees in the State of Montana. The board strives to make all the necessary regulatory changes to ensure portability of licensure and reduce unnecessary barriers to licensure as requested by the Governor and his Red Tape Relief Initiative, while maintaining the protection of the public through regulations.

Activities				
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 22	5	157	\$365,057.50	\$244,986.07
FY 23	18	175	\$382,310.00	\$310,832.32

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	149	204	1,355	91%	59%
FY 23	140	224	1,411	89%	69%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	19	0	0	10	3	1
FY 23	18	0	0	6	2	0

Board Staff: Jason Steffins | jsteffins@mt.gov | (406) 841-2329

2023 Legislative Bills: None

Court Cases: None

Changes to Board: None



BOARD OF PRIVATE SECURITY

privatesecurity.mt.gov | dlibsdp@mt.gov

As of 6/30/2023, the Board of Private Security served 1,369 licensees. The mission of the board is to protect the health, safety and well-being of Montana citizens through the regulation and oversight of the private security industry.

Activities				
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 22	0	54	\$318,565.00	\$278,634.55
FY 23	0	43	\$323,410.00	\$304,967.81

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	536	739	1,654	79%	59%
FY 23	486	788	1,673	77%	56%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	9	0	0	6	2	0
FY 23	5	0	0	4	1	0

2023 Legislative Bills:

- [SB 454](#) changed the operational structure of the board into a licensing program effective October 1, 2023.

Court Cases: None

Changes to Board: None



BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGISTS

psy.mt.gov | dlibspsy@mt.gov

As of 6/30/2023, the Board of Psychologists served 384 licensees. The Montana Board of Optometry serves licensees for the purpose of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Montana. The mission of the board is to ensure that rules and regulations are in place to protect the public by regulating Optometry in the State of Montana. The Board strives to make all the necessary regulatory changes to ensure portability of licensure and reduce unnecessary barriers to licensure as directed by the Governor and through his Red Tape Relief Initiative, while maintaining the protection of the public through relevant regulation.

Activities				
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 22	0	0	\$216,070.00	\$134,885.54
FY 23	0	1	\$191,280.00	\$135,550.98

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	81	99	318	97%	67%
FY 23	61	75	349	96%	77%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	3	0	0	2	0	1
FY 23	4	0	0	3	0	0

Board Staff: Victoria Pagan | victoria.pagan2@mt.gov | (406) 841-2367

2023 Legislative Bills: None

Court Cases: None

Changes to Board: None



BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINERS

pt.mt.gov | dlibsdp@mt.gov

As of 6/30/2023, the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners served 2,021 licensees for purpose of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Montana.

Activities				
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 22	0	178	\$170,490.00	\$124,860.93
FY 23	0	63	\$168,354.00	\$119,269.58

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	225	380	1,993	99%	93%
FY 23	190	326	2,036	99%	97%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	8	0	0	8	0	0
FY 23	7	0	0	6	0	0

Board Staff: Sandra Mellott | sandra.mellott@mt.gov | (406) 841-2373

2023 Legislative Bills: None

Court Cases: None

Changes to Board: None



BOARD OF RESPIRATORY CARE PRACTITIONERS

respcare.mt.gov | dlibsdrpc@mt.gov

As of 6/30/2023, the Board of Respiratory Care Practitioners served 971 licensees. The mission of the board is to protect the health, safety, and well-being of Montana citizens through the licensing of competent respiratory care practitioners and by the regulation of the practices to promote delivery of quality health care. The board continues to identify and decrease unnecessary or burdensome barriers to licensure without compromising quality health care for Montana citizens.

Activities				
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 22	0	22	\$105,130.00	\$41,419.44
FY 23	0	17	\$28,590.00	\$44,708.71

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	363	409	815	99%	99%
FY 23	210	226	908	99%	98%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	1	0	0	1	0	0
FY 23	3	0	0	2	0	0

Board Staff: Jay Unsworth | jay.unsworth@mt.gov | (406) 841-2352

2023 Legislative Bills:

- No specific changes to board statutes

Court Cases: None

Changes to Board: There have been no substantive changes to the board's operations.



BOARD OF REAL ESTATE APPRAISERS

realestateappraiser.mt.gov | dlibsdua@mt.gov

As of 6/30/2023, the Board of Real Estate Appraisers serves 1,309 licensees for purpose of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Montana. The Board establishes standards of licensure for real estate appraisers and regulates their compliance with the law in their professional practice. Additionally, the Board regulates their compliance in accordance to Uniform Standards of Professional Appraiser Practice (USPAP) and the Appraiser Qualifications Board (AQB) which are federally regulated.

Activities				
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 22	0	52	\$206,780.00	\$288,959.21
FY 23	0	41	\$513,705.00	\$255,911.43

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	378	406	578	98%	43%
FY 23	370	378	589	98%	44%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	25	0	0	17	0	2
FY 23	9	0	0	8	0	0

Board Staff: Patti Renenger | patricia.renenger@mt.gov | (406) 841-2370

2023 Legislative Bills: None

Court Cases: None

Changes to Board: None



BOARD OF REALTY REGULATION

realestate.mt.gov | dlibsdrre@mt.gov

As of 6/30/2023, the Board of Realty Regulation served 8,794 of licensees for purpose of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Montana.

Activities				
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 22	84	454	\$186,563.00	\$495,386.67
FY 23	17	350	\$710,277.50	\$467,849.10

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	1,110	1,174	7,633	96%	92%
FY 23	950	1,011	7,930	96%	93%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	90	0	0	73	7	1
FY 23	52	0	1	45	2	1

Board Staff: Dan Ritter | danritter@mt.gov | (406) 841-2244

2023 Legislative Bills:

- [HB 247](#) Revised laws relating to the exemptions to the practice of real estate and added an exemption for digital media platforms while providing clarification of Unprofessional Conduct.
- [HB 443](#) Revised discrimination laws regarding realtors and other professionals and modified Unprofessional Conduct requirements.
- [HB 615](#) Generally revised liability insurance laws relating to real estate professionals, by allowing firms to carry a higher errors and omissions deductible amount based on rules adopted by the board.
- [SB 455](#) Generally revised laws related to realty regulation including removing property management licensing from under the jurisdiction of the board and eliminated licensing of timeshare registration and sales.

Court Cases: None

Changes to Board:

- As noted above, SB 455 eliminated the property manager licensing from oversight under the board which has reduced some processing and compliance functions the board oversees.
- The board's makeup was reduced under HB 87 from 7 to 5 members.



BOARD OF RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS

radiology.mt.gov | dlibsdrts@mt.gov

As of 6/30/2023, the Board of Radiologic Technologists served 1,699 licensees. The board oversees Radiologic Technologists and Limited Permit Holders to ensure they meet minimum safety and qualification standards and to protect the public from the unprofessional, improper, or unqualified practice. The board's goals include streamlining of licensure and continuing education requirements, expansion of reciprocity agreements with other states and or countries and additional protection against unlicensed practice.

Activities				
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 22	0	109	\$162,860.00	\$80,889.22
FY 23	17	117	\$47,290.00	\$94,449.92

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	318	400	1,636	99%	94%
FY 23	335	410	1,751	99%	99%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	3	0	0	2	0	0
FY 23	4	0	0	3	1	0

Board Staff: Pam Hakala | pamella.hakala@mt.gov | (406) 841-2348

2023 Legislative Bills: None

Court Cases: None

Changes to Board: None



BOARD OF SANITARIANS

sanitarian.mt.gov | dlibsdsan@mt.gov

As of 6/30/2023, the Board of Sanitarians served 156 licensees for purpose of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Montana. The mission of the Board is to protect the health, safety, and well-being of Montana citizens through the regulation and oversight of the private security industry.

Activities				
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 22	0	7	\$42,595.00	\$16,216.61
FY 23	0	0	\$47,475.00	\$26,880.38

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	19	24	149	90%	92%
FY 23	40	39	167	94%	92%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	0	0	0	0	0	0
FY 23	3	0	0	2	0	1

2023 Legislative Bills:

- [SB 457](#) changed the operational structure of the board into a licensing program effective October 1, 2023.

Court Cases: None

Changes to Board:

- As noted, in SB 457, the board has been converted into a licensing program administered by the department. The board, at the end of FY 23 was undergoing rulemaking to implement the legislation as well as reduce operational inefficiencies and burdens on applicants and licensees under the Governor’s Red Tape Relief Initiative.



BOARD OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS & AUDIOLOGISTS

slpaud.mt.gov | dlibsdsip@mt.gov

As of 6/30/2023, the Board of Speech- Language Pathologists and Audiologists served 787 licensees. The mission of the Board of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists is to protect the health, safety, and well-being of Montana citizens through regulation of the practice of Speech-Language pathology and audiology and the licensing of competent professionals.

Activities				
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 22	0	4	\$28,343.00	\$75,615.27
FY 23	0	70	\$26,755.00	\$85,628.36

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	139	160	715	96%	98%
FY 23	155	152	771	95%	79%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	1	0	0	0	0	0
FY 23	2	0	0	2	0	0

Board Staff: Sandra Mellott | sandra.mellott@mt.gov | (406) 841-2373

2023 Legislative Bills:

- [SB 214](#) enacted the Audio and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact.
- [SB 300](#) generally revised speech pathologist and audiologist licensing laws.

Court Cases: None

Changes to Board:

- The board is continuing to work with the national compact organization to implement compact licensure, which is expected to start issuing privileges in late 2024/early 2025.



BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

vet.mt.gov | dlibsdivet@mt.gov

As of 6/30/2023, the Board of Veterinary Medicine served 1,433 licensees. The mission of the Board of Veterinary Medicine is to protect the health, safety, and well-being of Montana citizens through the regulation and oversight of veterinary medicine and the licensing of competent professionals.

Activities				
	Inspections	Audits	Revenues	Expenditures
FY 22	0	13	\$202,209.00	\$151,140.59
FY 23	0	50	\$236,484.50	\$189,428.24

Statistics					
	New Licenses	Applications	Renewed	Online Renewals	Online Applications
FY 22	116	123	1,191	94%	98%
FY 23	235	314	1,242	95%	100%

Complaint Summary						
	New	Revoked	Suspended	Dismissed	Sanctioned	Investigations
FY 22	5	0	0	4	0	1
FY 23	14	0	0	12	0	0

Board Staff: Kelly Welsh | kelly.welsh@mt.gov | (406) 841-2258

2023 Legislative Bills:

- [SB561](#) Established a license and qualifications for veterinary retail facilities and staff through the board and Pharmacy board. The new authority allows for increased access to veterinary prescription drugs in Montana by licensing non-pharmacy facilities and staff to dispense veterinary prescription drugs for livestock to a client based on a prescription issued by a veterinarian.

Court Cases: None

Changes to Board:

- In January of 2023, the board launched a new license type for a licensed veterinary technician (LVT); this was a direct result of legislation from the [2021 legislative session](#).



2023 LEGISLATION – ALL BOARDS

The following bills from the 2023 legislative session impacted all licensing boards:

- (1) [HB 87](#): This bill, effective October 1, 2023, standardized appointment, qualifications, and terms for all licensing boards. The bill also set uniform standards for the establishment of any new board and authorized the department to charge fees for production of information with the intent to create a new licensing board.
- (2) [HB 115](#): This bill, effective October 1, 2023, standardized penalties, and processes for unlicensed practice across all licensing boards. It gave additional enforcement powers to the board and department to address unlicensed practice.
- (3) [HB 583](#): This bill, effective July 1, 2024, mandated new procedures for the processing of military personnel and effected family members, including spouses. The bill requires each licensing board to issue a license to a servicemember or qualified relative who is relocating to Montana if the license holder has a substantially equivalent license from another state. If the license holder is not substantially equivalent, then the board must issue the applicant a temporary license while they complete the lacking requirements.



EXPLANATION OF DATA

The following is a list of events that may have impacted board license numbers, budget figures or compliance statistics. Additional explanations are provided for seen irregularities.

- (1) Inspections are mandated either statutorily or by rule depending on legislative grants of authority. The majority of licensing boards attached to the department do not conduct inspections, resulting in the zero (0) figure.
- (2) On January 1, 2022 compliance data tracking and case management was transitioned into a new database (CLIO), through the Centralized Services Division Legal Unit. Prior to that time and for part of FY 22, compliance data was stored in the Professional Licensing Bureau's database (ACCELA). Every attempt has been made to accurately reflect the correct case identifications in each board's complaint statistics; however, for some cases tracking either did not cease in Accela until after this date. This is likely the result of individual employee operations. Some minor overlap of cases may be found in the data.
- (3) In the Complaint Summary for each board, often more new cases appear than those resolved. It is not atypical for new compliance cases to remain open beyond a specific FY end, which explains the discrepancy in outcomes versus newly filed case numbers. Similar issues include lack of service upon a respondent, delays in board meetings, etc.



Thank you for reading our report. Please contact the Employment Standards Division Administrator if you have any questions or concerns regarding this report. If you have specific questions about an individual board, you may contact board staff.