

# ORM REGULATORY MODERNIZATION HIGHLIGHTS

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For working professionals across the Commonwealth, one of the most important assets they possess is their professional license. For non-health professions, most professional licenses are issued by the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR).

In response to [Executive Order 19](#)'s mandate to streamline regulations, DPOR has undertaken numerous regulatory actions that reduce regulatory burdens associated with professional licenses. An action approved this week increases citizens' earnings potential by over **\$14 million** per year, and DPOR's regulatory reduction efforts to date are expected to save over **\$274 million** per year.



Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation

***The Board for Contractors adopts changes that increase contractors' earnings potential by \$14 million per year.***

The Board for Contractors (which is one of the boards housed within DPOR) recently determined that the experience requirements for Class C

licensees (which perform "handyman" type repairs) were too high. The Board therefore [has proposed reducing](#) the experience requirement from 2 years to 1 years.

In addition, the Board created a new pathway for licensure, among several other changes. All told, these updates will result in \$14 million in increased earnings for Virginia's contractors. The change should also help alleviate the acute labor shortage in the construction industry, which should save Virginia citizens additional money.

***Other DPOR actions have produced \$274 million in annual savings or increased earnings potential.***

The Board for Contractors action is merely one of numerous actions that DPOR has recently undertaken that produce considerable savings for Virginia citizens. Other recent changes include:

- Creating a new type of [residential tradesman license](#) for the HVAC and plumbing trades that involves less burdensome entry requirements (**\$27 million/year** in reduced costs and increased earnings)
- Implementing [universal license recognition](#) (**\$25 million/year** in increased earnings potential)
- Translating contractor exams into Spanish, thereby expanding the pool of applicants (**\$25 million/year** in potential income)

In addition to these and other targeted changes, DPOR has achieved major reductions in processing times across all license types. Licenses now take **5 days** to process on average, as opposed to 33 days in the past. The increased processing speed allows newly licensed professionals to enter the marketplace sooner and will create **\$179 million** in increased earnings potential.