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**HOUSE INDUSTRY, BUSINESS, AND LABOR COMMITTEE
MARCH 20, 2023**

**TESTIMONY OF ALLYSON M. HICKS
OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
SENATE BILL NO. 2184**

Chairman Louser, members of the Committee. I am Allyson M. Hicks, Assistant Attorney General in the General Counsel Division, and I appear on behalf of the Attorney General's Office to offer neutral testimony and an amendment should the committee adopt Senator Lee's proposed amendment 23.0588.02001.

The General Counsel Division of the Office of Attorney General represents most occupational licensure boards for the State. Utilizing the attorneys' cumulative knowledge of the issues facing the boards, each year since 2018 we have put on a full day, in person or online training for board members to promote consistency in how matters are addressed. The topics vary from year to year based upon the issues that we, as their legal counsel, have seen affect multiple boards. We are happy to continue providing guidance to the boards; however, the proposed language in amendment .01002 restricts our ability to be flexible and tailor that training to the needs of the boards.

The training takes months of planning and research to put on. It takes 4-6 assistant attorneys general out of the office for an entire day. There may be some years, such as 2020, where an in-person training is physically not possible. This is why we have proposed modifying "shall" to "may." Additionally, we offer general assistance

to all of our clients through offerings on our website, which is why we propose that the word “training” be modified to “information or training,” as some items can be addressed with manuals, guides, or fact sheets. We have also proposed eliminating the specification of topics because we have determined that the topics need to vary year to year to address emerging issues, and we need that flexibility to meet the needs and requests of our clients.

I would request that the committee consider our proposed amendment, however, my office remains neutral on the remainder of the bill.

Thank you for your time, and I would stand for any questions.