

Performance
Evaluation &
Research Division
(PERD)

PERD's Objectives:

To determine if there is a continued need for licensure by the Board, to assess whether the Board complied with the general provisions of Chapter 30, Article 1 of the West Virginia Code, and other applicable laws, and to assess the Board's website for user-friendliness and transparency.

Key Recommendations:

The Legislature should consider terminating the Board.

The Board should:

- carefully monitor its financial condition and take steps to maintain cash reserves that are one to two times its annual expenditures.*
- consider utilizing the State Treasurer's Lockbox system to reduce the risk of fraud.*
- propose a rule in accordance with W. Va. Code 30-1-24(c) to not disqualify an applicant for initial licensure because of a prior criminal conviction that remains unreversed unless that conviction is for a crime that bears a rational nexus to the profession or occupation requiring licensure.*

November 2024

Regulatory Board Review: Board of Registration of Foresters

Agency Purpose: The primary purpose of the Board is to protect the public by establishing professional titles that convey a person is a qualified forester or forestry technician.

What Did PERD Find?

The Board is not needed to protect the public.

Table 3 Board of Registration of Foresters Budget Information FY 2019 through FY 2024					
Fiscal Year	Beginning Cash Balance	Revenues	Expenditures	Ending Cash Balance	End-of-Year Cash as a Percentage of Annual Expenditures
2019	\$53,851	\$12,550	\$13,699	\$52,702	385%
2020	\$52,702	\$14,560	\$24,829	\$42,433	171%
2021	\$42,433	\$10,305	\$17,468	\$35,270	202%
2022	\$35,270	\$13,060	\$18,939	\$29,391	155%
2023	\$29,391	\$13,900	\$21,054	\$22,237	106%
2024	\$22,237	\$10,525	\$23,316	\$9,445	41%
Avg.	\$39,314	\$12,483	\$19,884	\$31,913	176%
Source: Our Advanced Solution with Integrated Systems (OASIS), WV-FIN-GL-151 Board Summary Report. PERD calculations of percentages.					

PERD also found the following:

- The Board is financially self-sufficient, but its cash reserves are at a precariously low level.
- The Board lacks appropriate internal controls over its finances.
- The Board has not promulgated statutorily required rules to appropriately address applicants with prior criminal convictions.
- The Board's website needs substantial improvement in user-friendliness and more improvement in transparency.