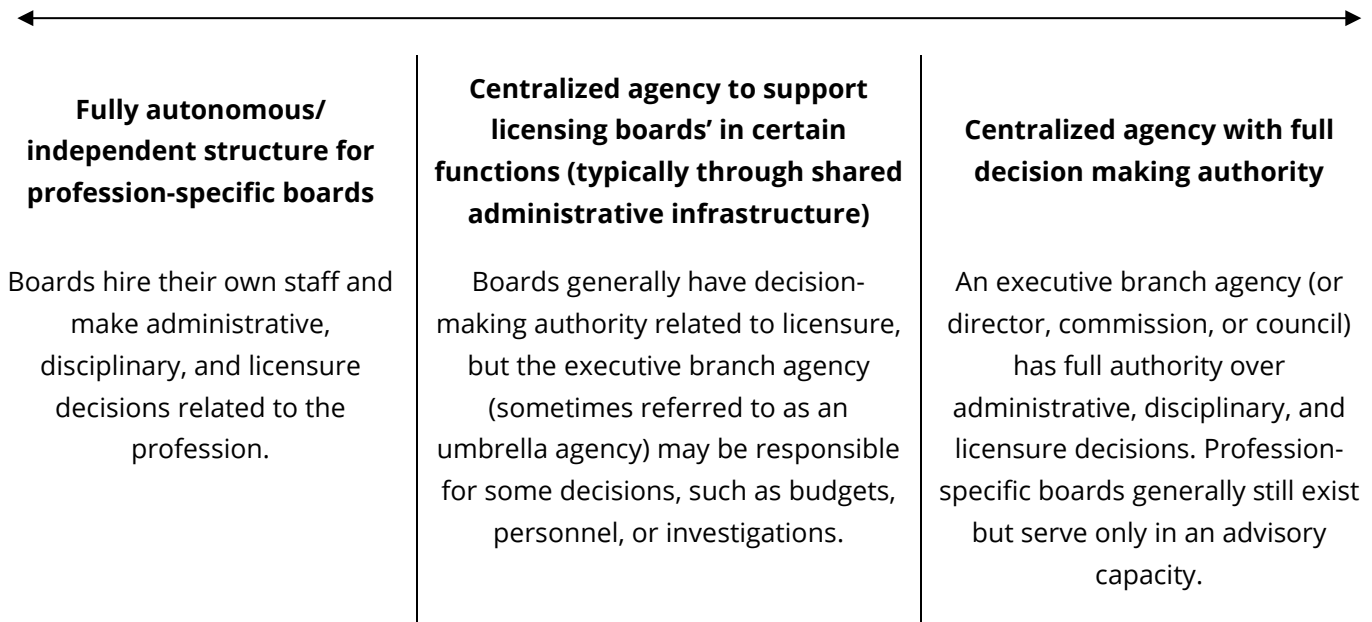




State Governing Models for Occupational Regulation

State executive branches are responsible for occupational regulation of health care workers. However, there is significant variation in the organization of the executive branch regulatory functions by state. State legislatures provide authority and structure for a state's health workforce regulatory activities. Most states have licensing boards which serve a role in regulating a profession. However, the authority and responsibilities of licensing boards vary by state. The diagram below demonstrates the breadth of variation in state approaches, outlining which functions are the responsibility of a licensing board and which fall to a more-centralized executive branch regulatory agency.

State Executive Branch Models for Regulatory Functions (adopted from the models presented in the [CLEAR report](#))



Of note, the health care workforce is broad and includes many professions/occupations. It may be the instance that some professions fall under one regulatory governing model, and another profession falls under a different governing model. Additionally, the governing approaches presented in the diagram above are intended to be illustrative concepts, and may not represent all types of governing models for occupational regulation.



Governors' Role:

Governors should understand their state's occupational regulation governing model for health care professions. The Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation (CLEAR) serves as an excellent [resource](#) for states and jurisdictions related to occupational regulation, including providing state level information about how state's regulatory structures are modeled.

Resources:

Professional and Occupational Regulation: U.S. State Regulatory Structure. Council on Licensure, Enforcement, and Regulation. 2020. Available at:

<https://www.ncsl.org/Portals/1/Documents/educ/Professional-and-Occupational-Regulatory-Structures-Report.pdf>