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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of SB0027 - Cosmetology Licensure Compact

Mr. Chair, Madame Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

SB0027 would enter Maryland into the interstate Cosmetology Licensure Compact.

Background

Issue Overview

Licensed professionals, include cosmetologists, who move from state to state often struggle with the process of seeking and attaining licenses in their new state. No group is more affected by frequent moves than military families, who are reassigned to a new duty station every 2-3 years on average. The time and expense for new Marylanders to attain a new cosmetology license is not only a burden to families, but also a burden to our stagnant economy.

Existing Law

The State Board of Cosmetologists (within the Maryland Department of Labor) issues two full-service licenses (cosmetologist and senior cosmetologist) and four limited licenses (hairstylist, blow-drying, nail technician, and esthetician). A cosmetologist or senior cosmetologist license authorizes the licensee to provide hair, nail, and esthetic services. The other licenses authorize the licensee to provide just that service.

Solution

Passage of SB0027 would enter Maryland into the interstate Cosmetology Licensure Compact, which would establish:

1. Membership requirements for member states;
2. Eligibility criteria for cosmetologists seeking a multistate license;
3. Procedures for renewing a multistate license;
4. Authority and duties of the Compact Commission and member state licensing authorities;
5. Disciplinary procedures; and
6. Related processes for the governance of the compact.

The bill is contingent on the enacting of substantially similar legislation in six other states. Having launched in 2023, this Compact has already passed in Alabama, Arizona, and Kentucky.

California, Georgia, Indiana, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia have introduced legislation during their 2024 legislative sessions.

Per the Fiscal Note, it is difficult for the State Board of Cosmetologists to estimate the expected cost of implementing SB0027 until the Compact is activated. However, I expect any additional costs to the state from the ultimate activation of the Compact to be minimal.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB0027.