

SB 629_MDL_FAV.docx.pdf

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DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL & PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
State Boards of Barbers and Cosmetologists
1100 N. Eutaw St., Room 121
Baltimore, MD 21201

Date: February 15, 2024

To: Energy, Education, Environment

Bill: SB0629- State Board of Cosmetologists-Membership Alteration-Letter of Support

The Board of Cosmetologists supports SB629 - State Board of Cosmetologists - Membership Alteration submitted by Senator Gile. The Board feels that this new membership alteration will add value to Maryland's cosmetology industry while continuing to protect consumer safety. In having an experienced esthetician on the Board regulating safe practices for Marylanders, the Board would be adding an important perspective to conversations concerning safe practices in esthetics. In addition, opportunities may be expanded for Maryland estheticians who wish to provide services that may be categorized as advanced esthetics. The esthetics industry in particular is quickly growing, and new industry trends are often presented to the Board for consideration. It would be to the benefit of the Board to have a member that not only has the best interest of all Maryland licensees but is also familiar with the complexities of esthetics services specifically.

In the current climate of the cosmetology industry, many inquiries from customers concern the best practices and allowances of the esthetician license within Maryland. It is vital that Maryland takes a position of support in altering Board membership to ensure our licensees are represented fairly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John C. Dove, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

John C. Dove, Jr.
Commissioner
Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Fletcher", written in a cursive style.

Nicole Fletcher
Executive Director
Board of Cosmetology

DG Written Testimony_SB0629.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Gile

Position: FAV

DAWN D. GILE
Legislative District 33
Anne Arundel County

Finance Committee

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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of SB0629 - State Board of Cosmetologists - Membership -
Alteration**

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

SB0629 is a straightforward yet crucial bill that carries significant importance for Maryland estheticians and their clients. By way of background, estheticians are professionals who perform facials, apply makeup (including eyelash extensions and tinting), provide facial hair removal services, and offer consultations about skin care techniques.

By including an esthetician on the Cosmetology Board, this bill simply aims to ensure adequate representation of every affected profession. Maryland estheticians take great pride in their exceptional work quality and the valuable services they offer to their communities.

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.) The board also registers apprentices. Applicants for licensure as a cosmetologist must pass a written and a practical examination and have successfully completed either a registered apprenticeship program or 1,500 hours of training at an approved cosmetology school.

This bill is essential for several reasons:

- Firstly, it provides a much-needed voice in the board's decision-making processes. Licensed estheticians bring a unique perspective derived from their extensive training and practical experience, which can greatly enrich the board's discussions and decisions.
- Secondly, having an esthetician on the cosmetology board helps to raise safety standards within the industry. With their specialized knowledge and expertise in skincare and beauty treatments, estheticians can offer valuable insights into developing regulations and guidelines that directly impact the well-being of professionals and consumers alike.

Currently, the Cosmetology Board consists of seven members: four cosmetologists, one school owner, and two consumer members. SB0629 would be a minor yet impactful change by replacing one of the consumer members with an esthetician. This adjustment holds the promise of promoting the integration of predominantly minority and women-owned professions into the board, while championing principles of diversity, representation, and community well-being. The Department of Labor supports this bill and submitted their letter of support to the committee.

Per the Fiscal Note, SB0629 would not result in additional state expenditures. For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB0629.