



BILL NO: House Bill 1547 – Cross over
TITLE: Barbers and Cosmetologists - License Qualifications - Domestic Violence Awareness Training
COMMITTEE: Education, Energy and the Environment
HEARING DATE: March 26, 2025
POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that brings together victim service providers, allied professionals and concerned individuals for the common purpose of reducing intimate partner and family violence and its harmful effects on our citizens. **MNADV urges the COMMITTEE to favorably report on HB 1547.**

House Bill 1547 would support domestic violence victims and survivors by integrating domestic violence awareness training into the licensure requirements for barbers and cosmetologists. Under HB 1547 beginning October 1, 2025, applicants and licensees must complete a one-hour training program developed by the Maryland Department of Labor. This training will cover:

- Recognizing signs of domestic violence
- Strategies for discussing concerns with clients
- Effective communication and listening techniques
- Connecting clients to appropriate resources and support groups

By educating professionals who often have close relationships with clients, the bill seeks to create additional support networks for individuals affected by domestic violence. When victims are isolated from friends and family often a person such as a hairdresser may be the only person the victim has contact with and to whom they may disclose information.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on HB 1547.**