

HB 1547 - MNADV - FAV - Cross over.pdf

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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.**

MD Labor_FWA_HB 1547-Barbers and Cosmetologists -

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Position: FWA

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TESTIMONY FOR HB1547

TO: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
FROM: Maryland Department of Labor
DATE: March 26, 2025
BILL: HB 1547-Barbers and Cosmetologists - License Qualifications - Domestic Violence Awareness Training

MD Labor Position: Favorable w/ Amendments

The Maryland Department of Labor (MD Labor) supports House Bill 1547 -License Qualifications - Domestic Violence Awareness Training. Incorporating domestic violence awareness training will not only help create a safer environment for consumers but also elevate the perception of barbers and cosmetologists as trusted and responsible professionals. This legislation could provide salons and barbershops an opportunity to showcase their commitment to social responsibility, and equip beauty professionals with the skills and knowledge to recognize signs of domestic violence and provide resources to clients who may have nowhere else to find help.

MD Labor appreciates the leadership of Speaker Jones on this issue and her willingness to consult with MD Labor on the language of the proposal. We are exploring with the Sponsor alternatives to creating a whole new training, such as allowing the Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists to publish a list of approved courses to fulfill this requirement on its website. This would provide licensees with clear guidance on fulfilling the requirement and achieving compliance efficiently and is also similar to how other states have integrated this requirement into their licensing requirements. Approving a list of providers from local nonprofit organizations has the additional benefit of supporting community partners who are subject matter experts in this area. This would connect beauty professionals directly with those organizations that can provide assistance, in the event that a situation arises where they need to apply the knowledge gained from this training.

To that end, MD Labor respectfully asks the Committee for a favorable report with the above referenced amendment on House Bill 1547.

For questions, please contact Andrew Fulginiti, at **Andrew.Fulginiti@maryland.gov**

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AMENDMENTS TO HB 1547

(Third Reader Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1:

On page 1, line 7, strike “develop and administer certain” and substitute “approve”.

On page 1, in line 8, after “training”, insert “programs”; in the same line, strike “includes” and substitute “address”; and in the same line, strike “guidance” and substitute “topics”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2:

On page 4, strike beginning with “DEVELOP” in line 11 down through “AWARENESS” in line 12, and substitute “APPROVE TRAINING PROGRAMS THAT AN INDIVIDUAL MAY COMPLETE TO SATISFY THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS TRAINING REQUIREMENTS OF THIS TITLE”.

On page 4, line 13, strike “DEVELOPED” and substitute “APPROVED”.

On page 4, line 15, strike “AND” and substitute “OR”.

On page 4, strike beginning with “BE” in line 24 down through “CHARGE” in line 25 and substitute “HAVE A DURATION OF AT LEAST ONE HOUR”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3:

On page 8, strike beginning with “DEVELOP” in line 2 down through “AWARENESS” in line 3, and substitute “APPROVE TRAINING PROGRAMS THAT AN INDIVIDUAL MAY COMPLETE TO SATISFY THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS TRAINING REQUIREMENTS OF THIS TITLE”.

On page 8, line 4, strike “DEVELOPED” and substitute “APPROVED”.

On page 8, line 6, strike “AND” and substitute “OR”.

On page 8, strike beginning with “BE” in line 15 down through “CHARGE” in line 16 and substitute “HAVE A DURATION OF AT LEAST ONE HOUR”.

AMENDMENT NO. 4:

On page 8, line 29, strike “October 1, 2025” and substitute “January 1, 2026”.