

## Chapter 286

**(House Bill 1547)**

AN ACT concerning

**Barbers and Cosmetologists – License Qualifications – Domestic Violence Awareness Training**

FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Barbers and the State Board of Cosmetologists to require as a qualification for licensure an applicant to complete certain training in domestic violence awareness; requiring the Maryland Department of Labor to ~~develop and administer~~ *approve* certain domestic violence awareness training that ~~includes certain guidance~~ *addresses certain topics*; requiring the State Board of Barbers and the State Board of Cosmetologists to require certain licensees to complete a one-time training requirement to renew a certain license; and generally relating to licensing qualifications for barbers and cosmetologists.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
 Article – Business Occupations and Professions  
 Section 4–201 and 5–201  
 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 Article – Business Occupations and Professions  
 Section 4–302, 5–304, and 5–305  
 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY adding to  
 Article – Business Occupations and Professions  
 Section 4–302.1 and 5–305.1  
 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Business Occupations and Professions**

4–201.

There is a State Board of Barbers in the Department.

4–302.

(a) To qualify for a license to practice barbering or a barber–stylist limited license, an applicant shall be an individual who meets the requirements of this section.

(b) (1) An applicant for a barber license shall have completed successfully:

(i) **1.** a required program of at least 1,200 hours of training in a barber school that is approved by the State Department of Education or the Maryland Higher Education Commission, in consultation with the Board; or

[(ii)] **2.** an apprenticeship of at least 2,250 hours within 2 years in a barbershop that holds a barbershop permit under the supervision of a master barber; **AND**

**(II) 1 HOUR OF IN–PERSON OR VIRTUAL TRAINING IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS UNDER § 4–302.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

(2) If the applicant for a barber license is an individual trained and currently licensed as a cosmetologist in the State, the Board shall:

(i) credit the applicant with having met one–half of the training requirement of paragraph [(1)] **(1)(I)** of this subsection; and

(ii) determine the manner in which the credit will be applied.

(3) The Board may credit an applicant with the number of hours of training the applicant completes in a barber school toward the number of hours required for an apprenticeship if the barber school where the applicant completes the training:

(i) is located in a detention center or correctional facility; and

(ii) **1.** is approved by the State Department of Education or the Maryland Higher Education Commission; or

**2.** has a curriculum similar to one that is approved by the State Department of Education or the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

(4) The Board may not credit more than 600 hours of training to an individual under paragraph (3) of this subsection.

(c) (1) An applicant for a barber–stylist limited license shall have completed successfully:

(i) **1.** a required program of at least 900 hours of training in a barber school that is approved by the State Department of Education or the Maryland Higher Education Commission, in consultation with the Board; or

**[(ii)] 2.** an apprenticeship of at least 1,650 hours within 18 months in a barbershop that holds a barbershop permit under the supervision of a master barber; **AND**

**(II) 1 HOUR OF IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL TRAINING IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS UNDER § 4-302.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

(2) If the applicant for a barber–stylist license is an individual trained and currently licensed as a cosmetologist in the State, the Board shall:

(i) credit the applicant with having met one–half of the training requirement of paragraph **[(1)] (1)(I)** of this subsection; and

(ii) determine the manner in which the credit will be applied.

(3) The Board may credit an applicant with the number of hours of training the applicant completes in a barber school toward the number of hours required for an apprenticeship if the barber school where the applicant completes the training:

(i) is located in a detention center or correctional facility; and

(ii) 1. is approved by the State Department of Education or the Maryland Higher Education Commission; or

2. has a curriculum similar to one that is approved by the State Department of Education or the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

(4) The Board may not credit more than 450 hours of training to an individual under paragraph (3) of this subsection.

(d) An applicant for a master barber license shall have at least 15 months of experience as a barber.

(e) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, an applicant for a master barber license shall pass an examination given by the Board or the Board’s designee under this subtitle.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, an applicant for a barber license shall pass an examination given by the Board or the Board’s designee under this subtitle.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, an applicant for a barber–stylist limited license shall pass an examination given by the Board or the Board’s designee under this subtitle.

**4-302.1.**

**(A) ~~THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP AND ADMINISTER A 1-HOUR TRAINING FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS~~ APPROVE TRAINING PROGRAMS THAT AN INDIVIDUAL MAY COMPLETE TO SATISFY THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS TRAINING REQUIREMENTS OF THIS TITLE.**

**(B) ~~THE~~ A TRAINING ~~DEVELOPED~~ PROGRAM APPROVED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION ~~SHALL~~ MUST:**

**(1) BE OFFERED IN PERSON AND VIRTUALLY;**

**(2) INCLUDE GUIDANCE ON:**

**(I) RECOGNIZING THE SIGNS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE;**

**(II) STRATEGIES TO NAVIGATE CONVERSATIONS WITH CLIENTS WHO MAY BE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE;**

**(III) HOW TO LISTEN TO AND COMMUNICATE WITH VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE; AND**

**(IV) CONNECTING CLIENTS WITH RESOURCES AND SUPPORT GROUPS FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE; AND**

**(3) ~~BE PROVIDED TO EACH APPLICANT OR LICENSEE FREE OF CHARGE~~ HAVE A DURATION OF AT LEAST 1 HOUR.**

**5-201.**

There is a State Board of Cosmetologists in the Department.

**5-304.**

**(a) (1) To qualify for a license to practice as a cosmetologist, an applicant shall be an individual who meets the requirements of this section.**

**(2) The applicant shall be at least 17 years old.**

**(3) The applicant shall have completed successfully a 9th grade education or the equivalent.**

**(4) (i) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, an applicant shall have received training by:**

1. serving as a registered apprentice as provided under §§ 5–404 and 5–405(e) of this title; or

2. successfully completing a required program of at least 1,500 hours of training in a cosmetology school that is approved by the State Board of Education or the Maryland Higher Education Commission in consultation with the Board.

(ii) If an applicant is a barber or master barber currently licensed in this State, the Board shall:

1. credit the applicant with having met one-half of the training requirements of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph; and

2. determine the manner in which the credit will be applied.

(iii) An applicant meets the requirements of this subsection if:

1. the applicant has held a cosmetologist license in another state or foreign country and has actively practiced cosmetology in the other state or foreign country for a period of 6 months; or

2. the applicant has been trained in a cosmetology school in another state or foreign country that has standards substantially equivalent to or more stringent than the standards of a school that is approved by the State Board of Education or the Maryland Higher Education Commission in consultation with the Board.

**(5) THE APPLICANT SHALL HAVE COMPLETED 1 HOUR OF IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL TRAINING IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS UNDER § 5–305.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

**[(5)] (6)** Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, the applicant shall pass a written and practical examination given by the Board under this subtitle.

(b) To qualify for a license as a senior cosmetologist, an applicant shall:

(1) have 2 years of experience as a licensed cosmetologist; and

(2) pass an examination approved by the Board.

5–305.

(a) To qualify for a limited license to practice cosmetology, an applicant shall be an individual who meets the requirements of this section.

(b) An applicant for a limited license to provide esthetic services shall:

- (1) be at least 17 years old;
- (2) have completed successfully a 9th grade education or the equivalent;

[and]

- (3) have received training by:

- (i) serving as a registered apprentice for at least 6 months as provided under §§ 5–404 and 5–405 of this title; or

- (ii) successfully completing at least 600 hours of instruction in providing esthetic services in a cosmetology school approved by the State Department of Education or the Maryland Higher Education Commission in consultation with the Board;

AND

**(4) HAVE COMPLETED 1 HOUR OF IN–PERSON OR VIRTUAL TRAINING IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS UNDER § 5–305.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

- (c) An applicant for a limited license to provide hair services shall:

- (1) be at least 17 years old;
  - (2) have completed successfully a 9th grade education or the equivalent;

[and]

- (3) have received training by:

- (i) serving as a registered apprentice for at least 15 months as provided under §§ 5–404 and 5–405 of this title; or

- (ii) successfully completing at least 1,200 hours of instruction providing hair services in a cosmetology school approved by the State Department of Education or the Maryland Higher Education Commission in consultation with the Board;

AND

**(4) HAVE COMPLETED 1 HOUR OF IN–PERSON OR VIRTUAL TRAINING IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS.**

- (d) An applicant for a limited license to provide hair services – blow drying shall:

- (1) be at least 17 years old;
  - (2) have completed successfully a 9th grade education or the equivalent;

[and]

(3) have received training by successfully completing at least 350 hours of instruction providing hair services – blow drying in a cosmetology school approved by the State Department of Education or the Maryland Higher Education Commission in consultation with the Board; AND

**(4) HAVE COMPLETED 1 HOUR OF IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL TRAINING IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS.**

(e) An applicant for a limited license to provide nail technician services shall:

(1) be at least 17 years old;

(2) have successfully completed a 9th grade education or the equivalent;  
[and]

(3) have received training by:

(i) serving as a registered apprentice for at least 3 months as provided under §§ 5–404 and 5–405 of this title; or

(ii) successfully completing at least 250 hours of instruction in providing nail technician services in a cosmetology school approved by the State Department of Education or the Maryland Higher Education Commission in consultation with the Board; AND

**(4) HAVE COMPLETED 1 HOUR OF IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL TRAINING IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS UNDER § 5–305.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

(f) If an applicant is licensed to practice as an esthetician, hairstylist, hairstylist – blow drying technician, or nail technician in another state or foreign country, the applicant meets the training requirements of this section if the applicant has held a limited license in the other state or foreign country and has actively practiced in the other state or foreign country for a period of 6 months.

(g) An applicant for a limited license shall pass an examination given by the Board under this subtitle.

### **5–305.1.**

**(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ~~DEVELOP AND ADMINISTER A 1-HOUR TRAINING FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS~~ APPROVE TRAINING PROGRAMS THAT AN INDIVIDUAL MAY COMPLETE TO SATISFY THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS TRAINING REQUIREMENTS OF THIS TITLE.**

(B) ~~THE~~ A TRAINING ~~DEVELOPED~~ PROGRAM APPROVED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION ~~SHALL~~ MUST:

- (1) BE OFFERED IN PERSON AND VIRTUALLY;
- (2) INCLUDE GUIDANCE ON:
  - (I) RECOGNIZING THE SIGNS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE;
  - (II) STRATEGIES TO NAVIGATE CONVERSATIONS WITH CLIENTS WHO MAY BE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE;
  - (III) HOW TO LISTEN TO AND COMMUNICATE WITH VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE; AND
  - (IV) CONNECTING CLIENTS WITH RESOURCES AND SUPPORT GROUPS FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE; AND
- (3) ~~BE PROVIDED TO EACH APPLICANT OR LICENSEE FREE OF CHARGE~~ HAVE A DURATION OF AT LEAST 1 HOUR.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The State Board of Barbers shall require an individual who holds a license or a limited license issued under Title 4 of the Business Occupations and Professions Article before October 1, 2025, to complete the domestic violence awareness training under § 4–302.1 of the Business Occupations and Professions Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, as a requirement for only the next renewal of the license or limited license.

(b) The State Board of Cosmetologists shall require an individual who holds a license or limited license issued under Title 5 of the Business Occupations and Professions Article before October 1, 2025, to complete the domestic violence awareness training under § 5–305.1 of the Business Occupations and Professions Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, as a requirement for only the next renewal of the license or limited license.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October 1, 2025~~ January 1, 2026.

**Approved by the Governor, May 6, 2025.**