

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1547
Economic Matters

(Delegate A. Jones)

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

This bill requires the State Board of Barbers and the State Board of Cosmetologists to require, as a qualification for licensure, an applicant to complete one hour of training in domestic violence awareness. The Maryland Department of Labor (MD Labor) must develop and administer the training, which must be offered to each applicant or licensee free of charge (in person or virtually). The training must include guidance on (1) recognizing the signs of domestic violence; (2) strategies to navigate conversations with clients who may be victims of domestic violence; (3) how to listen to and communicate with victims of domestic violence; and (4) connecting clients with resources and support groups for victims of domestic violence. The boards must require an individual who holds a license or limited license prior to the bill's effective date to complete the training as a requirement for the next renewal of the license or limited license.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund expenditures increase by at least \$40,000 in FY 2026 for programming and other costs related to implementing the training program. General fund revenues may decrease commensurately due to reduced reversions; however, to the extent the board increases licensing fees to cover the additional costs, general fund revenues may not be affected, as discussed below.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law:

State Board of Barbers

The State Board of Barbers issues barber and barber-stylist (limited) licenses. The barber license encompasses the full scope of barbering, while the barber-stylist license applies solely to the hair portion of barbering. The board also registers apprentices. Applicants for licensure must pass a written and a practical exam and meet specified experience (apprenticeship) or education (1,200 hours of instruction at an approved barber school for a barber license) requirements. A registered apprentice must complete at least 2,250 hours of supervised work as an apprentice within two years prior to applying for a license.

State Board of Cosmetologists

The State Board of Cosmetologists 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. A limited license authorizes the licensee to provide just that service. The board also registers apprentices. Applicants for licensure 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.

A licensed barber seeking a cosmetology license may be credited with one-half of the training requirement for a cosmetology license; the same is true for a licensed cosmetologist seeking a barber license.

State Barbers and Cosmetologists Boards' Fund

Chapter 256 of 2017, established the State Barbers and Cosmetologists Boards' Fund in MD Labor and redirected licensing revenue associated with the boards from the general fund to the new special fund. At the end of each fiscal year, any unspent and unencumbered portion of the special fund in excess of \$100,000 (*i.e.*, the operating surplus) reverts to the general fund. For example, if the fund has \$130,000 at the end of a fiscal year, then \$30,000 reverts to the general fund.

State Fiscal Effect: MD Labor advises that a dedicated licensing portal must be developed within an existing system to accommodate the new training requirement. Thus, special fund expenditures increase by approximately \$40,000 for this purpose in fiscal 2026 only.

MD Labor further advises that, due to capacity limitations of currently available virtual platforms, the virtual training component of the bill may require more advanced video conferencing tools. As these costs are in addition to the programming costs noted above, the board may need to adjust licensing fees to cover the additional costs. Although the boards will also likely provide the training in multiple languages, the cost to translate the training into other languages is not available at this time.

To the extent the board carries a fund balance above the \$100,000 reversion amount noted above, expenditures from the State Barbers and Cosmetologists Boards' Fund to implement the bill may reduce its fund balance, thereby reducing reversions to the general fund. Any such reduction in general fund revenues may be mitigated or eliminated if the board instead elects to cover the additional costs incurred under the bill by raising licensing fees.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Labor; Department of Legislative Services

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km/mcr

Analysis by: Eric F. Pierce

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510