

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Enrolled - Revised

House Bill 1547

(Delegate A. Jones)

Economic Matters

Education, Energy, and the Environment

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 approve training programs that an individual may complete to satisfy the training requirement, which must be offered 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.

The bill takes effect January 1, 2026.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Special fund expenditures increase by approximately \$10,000 in FY 2026 for reprogramming. Revenues are not materially affected.

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 barbing, while the barber-stylist license applies solely to the hair portion of barbing. 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.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 11, 2025
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