



Central Maryland Chamber
The Center of Intelligent Business

House Bill 448- State Board of Cosmetology- Licensees- Supervision of Apprentices

January 31, 2022

Dear Delegate Wilson and Members of the Committee,

The Central Maryland Chamber of Commerce (CMC) was formed in 2017, a merger of two existing chambers- The Baltimore Washington Corridor Chamber (originally founded in 1948) and the West Anne Arundel County Chamber (originally founded in 1962). The CMC is a regional organization representing approximately 350 businesses in the Central Maryland corridor and exists to be the primary business resource and advocate as the area experiences exponential growth.

Thank you for your support of business, jobs, and economic development in the 2022 Legislative Session.

Hiring, staffing and employee retention are some of the biggest issues businesses in Maryland are facing right now. Anything we can do to support business expansion, mentorship and apprenticeship programs is needed more than ever to support our small businesses as well as the Maryland workforce.

We are writing in support of House Bill 448, to increase, from one to two, the maximum number of apprentices that certain licensed cosmetologists may directly train and supervise; and requiring the State Board of Cosmetologists in the Maryland Department of Labor to adopt regulations consistent with the Act.

We have heard from small businesses in this industry that it is often hard for smaller salons to hire students from cosmetology schools as many go directly to large chain salons. Presently, these salons can only apprentice one person at a time. This bill would help businesses train more apprentices to fill the pipeline of employees.

The passage of this bill would provide the opportunity to more individuals to learn a trade that is presently in demand. Additionally, for Maryland residents who are interested in Cosmetology who cannot afford to attend cosmetology school, this could be an incredible opportunity to pursue their career in the field while learning the trade hands on. The salons can transition their trained apprentices into employees which is a win-win for all involved.

We ask you to please support House Bill 448. Thank you for the work you do for the citizens of Maryland.

Sincerely,

Kristi Simon
President & CEO
Central Maryland Chamber of Commerce