



DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING  
Office of the Commissioner  
1100 N. Eutaw Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201

Date: March 27, 2024

Committee: House Economic Matters Committee

Bill Title: SB261 State Board of Barbers – Sunset Extension and Report

Re: **Favorable**

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SB261, as originally submitted by the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL), would have extended by ten (10) years the sunset date for the State Board of Barbers, from 2024 through 2034. In the version passed by the Senate, however, **the extension language was amended** to extend the Board for three (3) years through July 1, 2027. Additionally, the amended bill now requires that, on or before July 1, 2025, MDL shall submit a report to the Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee (JAEC) with information regarding the State Board of Barbers as determined by the JAEC.

The Board of Barbers is responsible for regulating the practice of barbering in Maryland for barbers and barber-stylists.

Barbers can provide all barbering services, while barber stylists can provide barbering services, *excluding* chemical processes such as relaxing, body waving, shampooing, or coloring the hair.

When performed improperly, barber services can have an adverse impact on people's appearance and health. The Board of Barbers protects the public's health, safety, and welfare in two ways. First, through its licensing program, it ensures that barbers have adequate training to provide services to the public satisfactorily and safely. This training features an emphasis on safety and sanitation protocols. Second, the Board conducts proactive routine inspections and responds to consumer complaints to prevent unsafe conditions and practices and the provision of prohibited services. The Board's most common enforcement activities relate to the unlicensed practice of barbering and unsanitary conditions in barbershops and salons.

**We respectfully request a favorable report by the Committee on SB261.**