



Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Kevin A. Anderson | Secretary of Commerce
Signe Pringle | Deputy Secretary of Commerce

DATE: January 31, 2024
BILL NO: House Bill 383
BILL TITLE: Cosmetology Licensure Compact
COMMITTEE: House Economic Matters
POSITION: Support

The Maryland Department of Commerce (Commerce) supports House Bill 383 - Cosmetology Licensure Compact.

Bill Summary:

House Bill 383 establishes the framework for the creation of a Cosmetology Licensure Compact and authorizes individuals who hold an unencumbered cosmetology license in their home state to practice in a participating compact state. Additionally, this legislation establishes a Licensure Compact Commission comprised of one delegate selected by the member state's licensing authority, defines the role and voting rights of the Commission including disciplinary authority and provides a mechanism for withdrawing from the compact.

Background:

The Cosmetology Licensure Compact is designed to create a multistate cosmetology license that functions like a driver's license. Cosmetologists who hold an active, unencumbered single-state license in the compact state where they live can seamlessly transfer their license to a participating compact state if they decide to relocate.

Currently, licensed cosmetologists who move to another state must demonstrate the requisite education, experience and successful completion of an exam required for licensure in that state. While some states allow licensure by endorsement or reciprocity, this is still a more burdensome and time consuming process compared to transferring a license via a licensure compact.

Rationale:

Passage of this bill will allow Maryland to meet the qualifications and definition of a military family-friendly state within the Department of Defense's (DoD) Support of Military Families scorecard for states. These scorecards factor into future DoD basing decisions. The economic impact of Maryland's military installations in FY21 was \$61.4B in payroll and expenditures. With 72% of military families living off-base in our communities, this bill will allow not only the ease of military families gaining employment but also contributing to the overall quality of life for all Marylanders by increasing the availability and portability of cosmetology workers in our communities.

Commerce respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 383.