



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

Bill Title: SB264 State Board of Cosmetologists – Sunset Extension and Report

Re: **Favorable**

SB264, 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 Cosmetology, 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, the MDL shall submit a report to the Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee (JAEC) with information regarding the State Board of Cosmetology as determined by the JAEC.

The Board of Cosmetology is responsible for regulating the practice of cosmetology in Maryland, which includes the provision of esthetic skin care, hair, and nail services for beauty professionals at various scopes of practice.

Cosmetologists provide all cosmetology services. Hair Stylists, estheticians, and nail technicians provide *only* hair, esthetic skin care, or nail services respectively. Blow dry hair stylists provide hair services *excluding* chemical processes such as relaxing, body waving, shampooing, or coloring the hair.

When performed improperly, cosmetology services can have an adverse impact on people's appearance and health. The Board of Cosmetologists protects the public's health, safety, and welfare in two ways. First, through its licensing program, it ensures that cosmetologists 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, such as cosmetic medical procedures that must only be performed by licensed healthcare professionals. The Board's most common enforcement activities relate to the unlicensed practice of cosmetology and unsanitary conditions in salons and spas.

The Department respectfully requests a favorable report by the committee on SB264.