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## **HB 180: State Board of Cosmetologists – Licensing – Eyelash Extensions**

While there may not be enough time in this hearing to discuss beauty standards for women—are they realistic, oppressive, an individual art form or a personal expression of style--eyelash extensions are now common enough that the Board of Cosmetology has requested legislation that establishes standards of training, apprenticeship, and oversight that professionals must adhere to to be licensed to apply eyelash extensions.

Consider the application process: first the eye area is cleaned, eyelash primers and adhesives are applied, eyelash extensions are added to individual lashes then a sealant is applied. To date, this practice has been unregulated leaving clients with no recourse if there is an allergic reaction to the adhesive or other negative even dangerous outcome, such as infection, swelling, temporary or permanent loss of original eyelashes and – in worst case scenarios – loss of sight.

Under the Department of Labor, the Board of Cosmetology has regulated most activities that occur in traditional salons, including hair services, arching and

dyeing eyebrows, and offering nail services among others. House Bill HB 180 adds eyelash extension services to the list of services that are licensed and provided in salons. If this bill is approved, a length of time will be required for the training and apprenticeship of professionals applying eyelash extension. A limited license will be awarded to the successful applicant who has completed training, apprenticeship, and a practical examination.

Establishing these standards will protect salons and their clients and provide recourse in instances where eyelash extensions have been misapplied resulting in discomfort or even injury. Last year, in Session 2023, this bill was presented by Senator Beidle and received unanimous support. I respectfully request a positive report from HGO this Session.

Afterall, if beauty is in the eye of the beholder, HB 180 helps to preserve and protect the eyes of those who are beheld.