

To: Economic Matters Committee
From: John Dove, Commissioner, Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing, Maryland Department of Labor
Re: HB 383- Cosmetology Licensure Compact - Letter of Support

Good afternoon, for the record, my name is John Dove, Commissioner of the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing, at the Maryland Department of Labor. I would like to thank Chair Wilson, and all the Economic Matters Committee Members for allowing me to present our support for SB 383, entitled Cosmetology Licensure Compact, and I would like to explain why this legislation would benefit the citizens of Maryland. The Board of Cosmetologists and the Department urge you to consider the positive impacts that the Cosmetology Licensure Compact will have on Maryland's economy and beauty professionals relocating to the state. The Compact will provide licensees with increased mobility between states where it has been adopted and afford them with job opportunities in both short term and long term scenarios. It is currently adopted in three states, with legislation currently pending in seven additional states. This multistate license will allow a cosmetologist to perform services in Maryland, provided that their license is maintained in good standing where they originally obtained licensure. Member states will also have access to a shared database to quickly verify an applicant's license when relocating between states.

Participation in the Compact will be an economic asset to Maryland by reducing barriers to small business ownership in Maryland. As the vast majority of cosmetology salons are small businesses, allowing cosmetologists to quickly establish themselves in a new state encourages economic growth and competition in Maryland.

Under the terms of the Compact, The Maryland Board retains the ability to revoke a licensee's authorization to practice in Maryland should a violation of law or regulation occur. Cosmetologists who desire to open their own salon will also still be required to obtain business licensing and all relevant health and safety inspections before being permitted to operate in Maryland. This allows the Board to continue to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Maryland consumers while providing the benefit of license mobility to beauty professionals across the country. Again, thank you for your time and we ask this committee for a favorable report for the Cosmetology Compact.

Sincerely,



John C. Dove, Jr.

CC: Nicole Fletcher, Executive Director