



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

Date: March 8, 2024

Committee: Energy, Education, Environment

Bill Title: SB 261 State Board of Barbers – Sunset Extension

Re: **Favorable**

SB 261 will extend the statutory authorization of the State Board of Barbers, which is set to expire on July 1, 2024, for an additional ten years.

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 SB 261.