



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 264 State Board of Cosmetologists – Sunset Extension

Re: **Favorable**

SB 264 will extend the statutory authorization of the State Board of Cosmetology, which is set to expire on July 1, 2024, for an additional ten years.

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 SB 264.