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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of SB0617 - State Board of Cosmetologists - Licensing - Eyelash Extensions

Mr. Chair, Madame Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

SB0617 authorizes the State Board of Cosmetology (the Board) to issue a limited license to provide eyelash extension services.

Background

This committee has considered this bill before. It was first passed by the Senate in 2023 without a cross-file in the House. In 2024, it was reintroduced in the House, where it also passed but did not make it to the Senate for a full vote.

SB0617 is essential, as it supports thousands of businesses—many of which are owned and operated by women and minorities. The bill establishes a limited license for lash artists in the state, ensuring they receive the necessary education while also providing consumer protections for our citizens.

Last year, this committee passed SB1044, which established the scope of practice for estheticians and included lash services within that scope. However, the Board misinterpreted the intent of the bill, and as a result, lash artists are now required to be licensed as estheticians. SB0617 seeks to correct this issue.

Lash studios specialize solely in lash extensions and should not be required to obtain an esthetician license, which imposes unnecessary expenses and training unrelated to their profession. Recognizing this issue, the Board has delayed implementation until October 2025 to allow this body time to pass SB0617.

Solution

This bill:

- Defines “providing eyelash extension services” as an individual, for compensation, the service of:
 - Cleaning the eye area
 - Applying eyelash primers and adhesives, eyelash extensions, and sealant; and

- o Drying the eye area for eyelash extensions; or
- Sets out the following requirements for an applicant for a limited license to provide eyelash extension services
 - o Be at least 17 years old
 - o Have completed successfully a 9th grade education or the equivalent; and
 - o Have received training by:
 - Serving as a registered apprentice for at least 3 months; or
 - Successfully completing at least 100 hours of instruction in providing eyelash extension services in a cosmetology school approved by the State Department of Education or the Maryland Higher Education Commission in consultation with the Board; or
 - o Pass a practical and written exam administered by the Board.

SB0617, which is supported by the Board, is a straightforward solution to an urgent issue, and I strongly urge your favorable report.