



Sponsor Testimony HB189
Cosmetology Reform
Representative Kristina Roegner

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Clyde, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony today on HB189, which builds on the common sense reforms for the Cosmetology industry, enacted through SB213 of the 131st General Assembly. Our comprehensive bill seeks to make Ohio's cosmetology laws the national model.

This bill would seek to: (1) focus on cosmetology student success in entering the beauty industry with less debt and greater ability to repay student loans; (2) facilitate a continuous workforce development pipeline for salons; (3) reduce the amount of unnecessary regulations placed on members of the cosmetology industry, and would make it easier for Ohioans to begin or expand their business in the state. From small business owners to aspiring cosmetologists, this legislation would remove significant barriers to success.

This legislation is written to accomplish the following goals:

1. **License mobility/reciprocity** - Ohio is open for business. The license reciprocity language creates license mobility and facilitates movement between different states for a more mobile workforce. It strives to minimize the tendency of stylists to drop out of the industry or go underground due to a lengthy license transfer process, and enables multi-state employers to relocate employees, increasing their career opportunities.

2. **Lowers state mandated licensure hour requirements.** Lower the Ohio requirement for cosmetology licensure hours from 1,500 to 1,000; reduce hair designer licensure hours from 1,200 to 600; reduce esthetician licensure hours from 600 to 300; and reduce manicurist from 200 to 100. Independent research and successful models in New York and Massachusetts show there is no justification for requiring more than 1,000 hours of education for cosmetology licensure.
3. **Allows on-demand scheduling and working outside a salon** – Several beauty industry licensees need to provide on-site cosmetology services for weddings, films and special occasions around the state outside of a bricks and mortar salon. Our legislation enables such services to be performed on site, with reasonable requirements for licensees to ensure public safety.
4. **Creates a cosmetology apprentice process for licensure** – The apprenticeship program in our bill is modeled after other states like Wisconsin, Tennessee, and Alabama. These programs will provide salon owners the opportunity to become a provider and future cosmetologists the ability to work and earn a wage while advancing toward licensure.
5. **Sets schools of cosmetology up for success and consistency across state lines** – One area focuses on requiring pre-graduate testing for public and private school students. It not only gives students the opportunity to get remedial training if they fail, but allows graduates to be licensed immediately upon graduation; moving into the workforce sooner to earn wages, pay taxes, and begin repaying loans. In addition, the bill authorizes distance learning to provide maximum flexibility for students to learn when and where it is convenient and lowers the cost for school's traditional on-site, bricks and mortar classrooms.
6. **State Board Recommendations and Safety rules** – Our bill addresses several issues raised by the Ohio State Board of Cosmetology staff as well as makes Ohio law consistent with safety and infection control rules and regulations with known causes of infection or other health threats to the public.

This bill is supported by the Ohio Salon Association, the only business trade association in Ohio representing the interests of small business job providers and salon owners across the state. It is also supported by the Future of the Beauty Industry Coalition, a national coalition of cosmetologists, students, salon owners, manufacturers, publishers, distributors, and cosmetology schools.

By removing the unnecessary bureaucratic burdens and implementing a few common sense ideas, HB189 will make it easier for thousands of Ohioans to secure

a job here in our Buckeye state. We believe that this is good public policy and look forward to working with this committee as thought partners on this bill as we move forward.

I would respectfully request the committee to hold their questions until my joint sponsor, Representative Reece, has had an opportunity to present her sponsor testimony, at which time we both would be delighted to address any questions the committee might have at that time.