



Kris Jordan
State Senator

Senate Building, Rm. 39
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-466-8086

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Senate Bill 129 Sponsor Testimony
Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee
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Chairman Coley and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today on Senate Bill 129.

Senate Bill 129, sponsored by Senator Tavares and myself, seeks to build on the work started last General Assembly by Senate Bill 213. Along with companion legislation in the House, HB 189 sponsored by Representatives Roegner and Reece, SB 129 works to continue eliminating red tape and unnecessary government barriers to the cosmetology industry here in Ohio.

The efforts of the Legislature last General Assembly produced a number of changes including the establishment of a boutique services registration, which allows the practice of certain cosmetology services without a license provided the individual providing the service is registered with the state. SB 129 goes a step further with the following changes:

1. **License reciprocity** – There is a tendency for stylists, upon moving to a new state, to drop out of the industry or go underground due to lengthy state-to-state license transfer processes. The license reciprocity language in this bill moves to enable greater license mobility. This facilitates a more flexible workforce and enables multi-state employers to relocate employees, potentially increasing their career opportunities.
2. **Beyond brick and mortar** – To remain competitive in today's economy, businesses must be flexible, innovative and for the cosmetology industry, sometimes mobile. SB 129 clarifies that the Ohio State Board of Cosmetology can allow services to be provided outside of the traditional brick and mortar setting. This will let Cosmetologists work on-site for events such as weddings, film shoots, or other special occasions.
3. **Apprentice program** – The goal of government regulations should be to encourage involvement in our economy, not stifle growth with burdensome rules or a one size fits all approach. Modeled after states

like Wisconsin, Tennessee, and Alabama, the apprenticeship program in this bill will provide salon owners the opportunity to employ the workforce they need while granting future cosmetologists the ability to work and earn a wage while advancing toward licensure.

4. **Setting up for success** – Students in our public and private Cosmetology schools should be set up for success and, upon graduation, be ready to enter the workforce. This legislation requires the Board of Cosmetology to create a system that allows students to begin licensure testing prior to graduation. This will better enable schools to gauge student readiness and correct any problems that could jeopardize their opportunity for licensure.
5. **Reducing state mandates** – Successful models in New York and Massachusetts, along with independent research, show that there is no justification for requiring more than 1,000 hours of education for a cosmetology license. Building off that template, SB 129 reduces Ohio's required educational hours from 1500 to 1000. Further it cuts in half the hours for the Hair designer, esthetician, and manicurist licenses to 600, 300, and 100 hours respectively.

The bill also updates state law to ensure that safety and infection control rules and regulations focus on known causes of infection or other health threats to the public.

In summary, SB 129 and SB 213 from the last General Assembly, share a common theme of encouraging greater economic involvement and eliminating burdensome government regulation. I think they are a step in the right direction, and I hope that this, and future General Assemblies, will continue down this path, not just in cosmetology, but in any trade that we regulate. Government rules should never serve as a barrier to entry, only as a floor designed to allow as much freedom as possible.

My thanks to Senator Tavares, for again working with me on this issue and I want to thank the House sponsors, Representatives Roegner and Reece, for their efforts in the House. Also, my appreciation to the Ohio Salon Association, and on the national level, the Future of the Beauty Industry Coalition for their support of the bill.

Mr. Chairman, Thank you again for allowing me to testify.