

Ohio State Barber Board

Budget Testimony

Finance Subcommittee on General Government and Agency Review

May 1, 2017

Chairman Jordan, Vice Chair O'Brien and Members of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on General Government and Agency Review, my name is Ed Highley. I'm the Executive Director of the Ohio State Barber Board. I served as Interim Executive Director from November 12, 2014 until my recent appointment as the Executive Director on January 22, 2017.

On behalf of the Ohio State Barber Board, I would like to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony and address any questions that you may have.

The Barber Board was established in 1934 to protect the consuming public. The Barber Board is responsible for examining and licensing barbers, barbershops, barber instructors and barber schools.

The Board currently regulates approximately 8900 Barbers, 3000 Barbershops, 95 Instructors, and 20 Barber schools, including 5 institutional schools. Not only do we operate in this traditional licensing route, but also the Barber Board works with the Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections to provide facilities in which inmates may receive training in the barber profession. The DRC barber schools are second to none. The graduates from those schools are trained and ready to enter the work force and lead productive lives as professional barbers. In FY 2017 the Board will process and issue more than 12,000 licenses.

The Barber Board is comprised of 3 members, one licensed as a barber, one licensed as a barber and a shop owner, and the other a public member with no connection to the industry. Each member is appointed by the Governor to a three-year term. When fully staffed, the Board has a staff of 7

full time employees, which includes an Executive Director, a Program Administrator I, an Administrative Professional II, and 4 Inspectors.

Currently all Barber Board processes are operational and working, the Board has a plan to enhance these processes with improved technology. The Board contracts with DAS OIT for computer services. The Board approved new computer hardware and migration to Office 365 as suggested by DAS OIT during an assessment in October 2015 and was implemented in April 2016. The Barber Board has all of our forms available on our web site, with the exception of student applications which are completed by the school and submitted on the student's behalf.

In June of 2015 the Board started accepting credit/debit card payments for fees in person and over the phone. The Board implemented online license renewal for the first time with the license renewal period in June 2016, for the 2016-2018 licenses. DAS-OIT in partnership with many of the State of Ohio Licensing Boards, is implementing a new on-line license system. A projected date for the Board to "go live" with the new system is to be determined.

There remains an increasing demand for licensed barbers throughout Ohio, especially in small towns and rural areas. A part of the Boards function is to maintain the number of licensed barbers to meet the public demand. The Board promotes the expansion of schools, and works cooperatively with the prison system, public schools and private schools to accomplish this. The barber schools are currently training 1287 students. In 2016 the Board licensed 2 new barber schools. The Board conducts all licensing examinations with the executive Director and the 2 licensed Barber Board members serving as proctors for the exam.

Within our global society, the Board assists many "out of country barbers" with obtaining an Ohio barbers license. It is important to provide this assistance on a fair and impartial basis.

The Barber Board has approved an HIV/AIDS education and Human Trafficking education requirement for all new licensees. The new licensees are required to read the educational material and answer questions in writing.

The Board is fiscally sound and our revenues result from licensing, renewal fees and fines. The Barber Board receives no funding from the General Revenue Fund and is not dependent on fines.

The Board has not raised licensure application or renewal fees since 2002.

The Board anticipates revenue will exceed its spending authority. The Executive Budget proposes to merge the functions and duties of the Barber Board into the Board of Cosmetology, which will be renamed the Cosmetology and Barber Board, effective January 21, 2018. The recommended spending levels in the Executive Budget are \$433,800 for FY 2018 to support the current priorities

and objectives of the Barber Board until January 21, 2018. The budget recommendation for the Cosmetology and Barber Board contains appropriations to fulfill these same priorities and objectives from January 21, 2018 through the end of FY 2019.

In conclusion, the Board with the requested budget can continue our current level of service for the citizens of Ohio and the licensees and as well as a continued approach to promote professionalism within the industry.

I would like to thank Chairman Jordan and members of the committee for the opportunity to provide testimony. I'm willing to answer any questions that you may have.