



**Representative Lisa Sobecki  
House District 45**

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**House Bill 542 Sponsor Testimony**

Chair Stein, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan, and members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony in support of House Bill 542 with my Joint Sponsor, Representative Bill Roemer.

Recently the state boards for barbering and cosmetology were consolidated under one roof but separation still remains in the Ohio Revised Code. Barbering and Cosmetology are too distinct fields. To use an analogy, currently, they are two similar flowers with their stems taped together. By harmonizing state law through this bill, instead there will be two flowers bloomed off of the same stem. Both fields would stay under separate ORC sections and have different laws, regulations when necessary but it allows for a better relationship under the Barber and Cosmetology board.

My Joint Sponsor, Representative Roemer will go over the more technical aspects of the bill but I wanted to highlight an example of one of the improvement we are trying to achieve through House Bill 542.

Under current law, a young Ohioan can enroll in Cosmetology School at age 16 and begin training. However, a young Ohioans have to wait till they are 17 to enroll in Barber School. This issue was brought to my attention by career tech instructors at a public school in my district. So far no one I have had conversations with can tell me why there is a distinction. House Bill 542 reduces the age requirement for barber schools to 16.

Our bill while substantial is focused on cleaning up the language and helping to make the conjunction of the two stems more seamless. Over the past several General Assemblies, there has been a lot of conversation around the reduction of hours. Our bill does not address that issue. Ohio has a thriving barber and cosmetology industry and House Bill 542 improves state law.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I am happy to answer any questions from the committee.