

Ohio House Commerce and Labor Committee

HB 542 Proponent Testimony

March 29, 2022

Chairman Stein, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan and members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee.

My name is Wezlynn Davis and I am here to offer support for HB 542 on behalf of the Ohio Barber and Beauty Alliance.

House Bill 542 promotes and protects economic growth for Ohio's barber graduates and our industry's licensees. HB 542 will help to mitigate financial losses in the future by adding and eliminating areas of revised code.

Two provision that I would like to highlight:

Limited event provisions

In short, if you are licensed, you can provide a service off site. It is true licensees have provided services in homes from time to time but on a much larger scale this provision will support licensed professionals in their economic growth and businesses development plan. We are frequently asked to provide services at event sites, charity locations, weddings etc. Currently, a temporary event permit is required. Licensed professionals in our industry complete a minimum of 60 hours of infection control, sanitation and disinfection training upon graduating, and are required to earn 2 (out of 8) hours of infection control continuing education every two years. We believe and see that licensees have the ability to maintain and implement these important safety measures outside of brick and mortar facilities, too. Removing this required permit simply removes a barrier to economic growth and will not result in a public safety risk.

Temporary pre examination work permit

The temporary pre-examination work permit is available for all other discipline graduates in our industry - except barbers. Due to COVID-19, the barber and cosmetology board will experience a backlog of examinations and this amendment will open the opportunity for barbers to work while waiting to test. Again, every other licensee is permitted to satisfy areas of revised code and work under the supervision of a licensed professional until passing the examination. Additionally, the board may establish additional conditions for a temporary pre- examination work permit under section 4709.071 of the Revised Code that is applicable to individuals who are licensed to practice barbering in another state or country.

In closing, our Ohio beauty and barber industry is the seventh largest industry in Ohio with 92 active licensees and thousands attending school each year.

Our industry is heavily made up of entrepreneurs, “solopreneurs” and independent contractors. Due to the nature of our self-employment, many of the financial programs available to individuals proved to be difficult for our licensees to participate in during the height of the pandemic.

The committee's support of this bill will positively affect tens of thousands of people.

Thank you and I look forward to any questions you may have.