

Opposition Testimony
Am. Sub. HB 542
November 30, 2022

Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee
Kristina Roegner, Chair Rob McColley Vice Chair
Ranking Member Craig, Members Hoagland, Lang, Schaffer, Thomas

Chairman Roegner, Vice Chair McColley, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee. I am Sabrina Walden, Vice President of Administration at Salon Schools Group. I am here to offer my professional insight as to the effect reducing cosmetology education hours will have on restructuring and procedural changes of proprietary schools in the State of Ohio.

A reduction in hours, by the State, will place a large monetary and administrative burden on schools, in order to maintain accreditation compliance. In addition to the time and energy required to restructure our current curriculum, which must be completed before further accreditation procedures can occur, the timetable for notification and program approval on the State and National accrediting level may be substantial.

For a state-mandated change, National approval is estimated at three to four weeks following the completion of all necessary paperwork. After receiving approval for the change from our National Accrediting Agency, the school must apply for approval of the new program with the Department of Education, which could result in an additional delay of 90 to 120 days in student enrollment to the program.

In regards to Mr. Fiore's assertion that schools may continue teaching the 1500-hour Cosmetology program, while we may apply for approval of a program up to 50% more than the State approved licensure requirements, approval is neither guaranteed nor expedient. The estimated processing time for program approval of the 1500-hour program is 12-18 weeks after all applicable documentation is submitted. After receiving approval for the change, from our National Accrediting Agency, the school must then apply for approval of the program with the Department of Education, which could result in an additional delay of 90 to 120 days.

As the 1800-hour Advanced Cosmetology program would exceed the proposed reduced 1000-hour state licensure requirement by more than 50%, and since the program under the proposed legislation would not lead to licensure in the State, the current 1800-hour Cosmetology program will not receive approval and will have to be removed.

During the program approval process for both the proposed reduced 1000-hour program and the 1500-hour program, schools will not be permitted to enroll students into the programs until they have been approved by all applicable accrediting agencies and the Department of Education, in order to receive financial aid for eligible students. In addition, the delay in enrollment will impact the number

of graduating students eligible for licensure under the recommended changes, which appears to be of great importance to the proponents of this bill. Therefore, any proponents of program changes at the State level should take into consideration the nine to twelve months required for program approval.

Overall, a reduction in hours will negatively affect schools and their ability to enroll, train and graduate students that rely on the potential found in this industry to support themselves and their families. Passage of Am. Sub. HB 542 will adversely impact not only future cosmetologists and hair designers but the very schools who provide training and prepare them for the industry and I encourage you to vote "NO" to the proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

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