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Sponsor Testimony

Senate Bill 89

Ohio House Commerce Labor and Committee

June 11th, 2024

Chair Johnson, Vice-Chair Manchester, Ranking Member McNally, and Members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on S.B. 89, which upon enactment would join Ohio to the “Cosmetology Compact.”

The Cosmetology Compact (“the Compact”) is an interstate occupational licensure compact for cosmetologists. An interstate occupational licensure compact is a legislatively enacted contract among participating states.¹ States joining a compact agree to recognize a license issued by another compact member state, thereby allowing a professional to practice in the “remote state” without having to go through each state’s licensure process.

The Compact is similar in form and function to the other compacts Ohio has already enacted into law, in that a cosmetology professional must hold an active, unencumbered license in a compact member state to be eligible to apply for a multistate license. These individuals must also pass a check related to background and criminal history and meet other category-specific eligibility requirements related to education and examinations. When eligibility is verified and all fees are paid, the state licensing board will inform other member states

¹ <https://cosmetologycompact.org/>.

that the cosmetologist has received a multistate license and they may begin legally working in any compact member state.²

From a regulatory standpoint, there are no changes to each compact member state's authority to protect public health and safety through the existing state regulatory structure.³ This means that a cosmetologist with a multi-state license providing services in a remote state must abide by the scope of practice, laws, and rules of the remote state where the client is located at the services are performed. Additionally, joining the Compact has no impact on a state's ability to offer a single state license.⁴

The Compact language was drafted over the course two years by a Technical Assistance Group consisting of nearly a dozen state boards and the Future of the Beauty Industry Coalition, led by the Council of State Governments and funded by the Department of Defense. The group met regularly over the course of several months to determine the mobility needs of the profession, analyze current licensure requirements in the states, and to develop policy recommendations for the initial draft of the compact. This draft legislation received public feedback and a final draft was produced in December.

As many licensure compacts for other professions have prescribed, this Compact language stipulates that a governing commission is to be formed after seven states have enacted enabling legislation.⁵ Those first seven states are responsible for initial adoption of the rules and bylaws of the Compact's operation going forward.

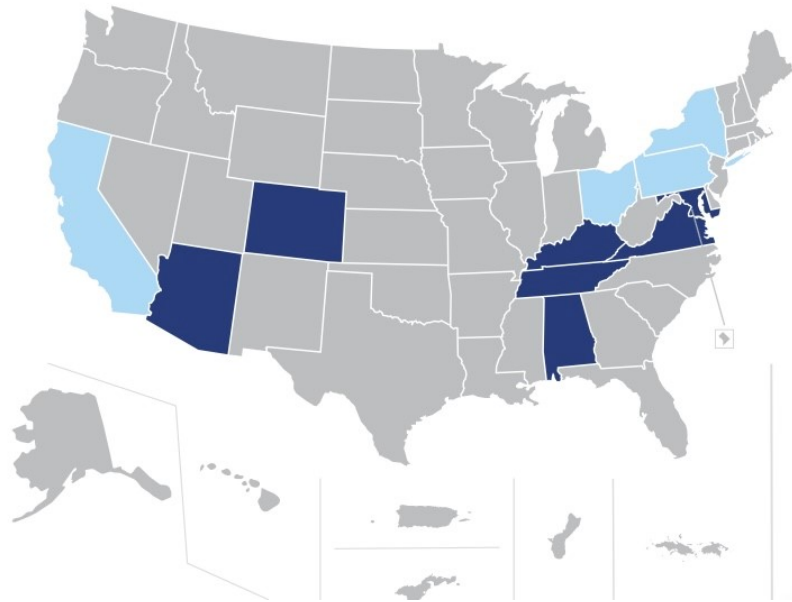
² [Lines 196-236 of Senate Bill 89 "As Passed by the Senate"](#)

³ [Lines 278-284 of Senate Bill 89 "As Passed by the Senate"](#)

⁴ [Lines 273-275 of Senate Bill 89 "As Passed by the Senate"](#)

⁵ [Lines 952-953 of Senate Bill 89 "As Passed by the Senate"](#)

Currently, three other states have active legislation to join the Compact (California, Pennsylvania, and New York.) Kentucky, Arizona, Tennessee, Alabama, Virginia, Maryland, and Colorado have already enacted their bills into law.⁶



While Ohio missed getting one of the first seven spots, that is no reason for dissuasion – the Compact allows for Ohio, and a majority of participating states, to revise the Compact’s language if member states find a compact provision to be more burdensome than helpful to its’ founding purposes. Experience dictates that it takes about two years after the inaugural commission meeting before compact privileges begin being granted. Since states join the commission as they enact enabling legislation and there has yet to be an inaugural commission meeting, there is still time! Passing this bill expeditiously would also signal to our nation’s 600,000+ licensed cosmetologists that the Buckeye State cares about its residents’ careers and maximizing their licensure mobility.

While removing barriers to entry is important across the board, maximizing mobility and ensuring license portability is even more important for our military families who relocate every 2-3 years (10x more often than civilians) and often wait 10+ months for a license transfer.^{7 8} This Compact eases that burden and supports military families by allowing the service member or their spouse to

⁶ <https://cosmetologycompact.org/compact-map/>

⁷ <https://counselingcompact.org/tool-kit/> (see video time marker 2:05)

⁸ <https://counselingcompact.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/CC-Summit-Slides-2021.pdf>

continue to work with their current compact privilege if they are assigned to a new duty station in a compact member state.

Senate Bill 89's positive impact cannot be stated enough. The Senate Government Oversight Committee voted unanimously, 4-0, to report the bill from committee and the Senate swiftly passed the bill in a 31-0 vote.⁹ The Cosmetology Compact's language was also added to Representatives Roemer and Miller's HB 158, which also unanimously passed through the Senate Government Oversight Committee, 5-0, and the Senate, 31-0, and now awaits a concurrence vote from the House.¹⁰

In closing, passage of Senate Bill 89 puts Ohio at the forefront of establishing the Cosmetology Compact, promotes the cosmetology profession in Ohio, and alleviates burdens for military families. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 89. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

⁹ <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/135/sb89/votes>

¹⁰ <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/135/hb158/votes>