



OHIO STATE COSMETOLOGY AND BARBER BOARD

To protect and support the public through regulation and education, while promoting the integrity of the cosmetology and barbering industries.

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**Testimony Before the House Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education
Ohio State Cosmetology and Barber Board
Lori Pearson, Executive Director
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Chairwoman Manning, Ranking Member Jarrells, and members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education, my name is Lori Pearson, and I am the Executive Director of the Ohio State Cosmetology and Barber Board. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the Ohio State Cosmetology and Barber Board budget as proposed.

Summary

The Ohio State Cosmetology and Barber Board (the "Board") regulates salons, barbershops, schools, and individuals engaged in the practice of cosmetology, branches of cosmetology, barbering, boutique services, and tanning services. The Board's mission is to protect and support the public through regulation and education, while protecting the integrity of the cosmetology and barbering industries. The Board works to achieve this mission by leading the industry, elevating professional standards, and ensuring salons, barbershops, and individuals offering those services are compliant with infection control and safety standards established by the Board.

The Board consists of thirteen (13) individuals appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Ohio State Senate. The Board employs forty-one (41) full-time staff members including examiners, inspectors, administrative and supervisory staff to complete a broad spectrum of duties delegated to them by the Board.

Examination

The Board is charged with ensuring that persons seeking to be licensed in barbering, cosmetology, or a branch of cosmetology meet the minimum competency standards of licensure. Board staff administers a theory examination which is provided by contract with a national examination provider to offer a validated theory examination.

The Board staff is trained to administer a Board constructed practical examination that evaluates the techniques, skills, and infection control and safety standards established by the Board. The combination of online scheduling and a centralized location for administering examinations allows the Board to have up to 48 candidates scheduled for examinations daily. This combination provides cost effective and efficient examinations, which enable the Board to provide examinations at a reasonable fee to candidates.

During FY22, the Board administered a total of 15,462 examinations for barbering, cosmetology, and the branches of cosmetology. Of these examinations, 11,998 were first time candidates. Examination candidates that pass their licensure examination can purchase and receive their license the same day.

Regulation

The Board regulates Barbering, Cosmetology, Boutique Services, Tanning, and Schools. This represents a wide array of licensees and services, which include barbers, cosmetologists, manicurists (nail), estheticians (skin), hair designers, and natural hair stylists. Based upon FY22 data, the Board licenses approximately 96,681 individuals holding practicing licenses, instructor licenses, advanced licenses, or registrations. The Board also licenses 39,126 businesses. Giving the Board a total licensee base of 135,807.

In FY22, the Board inspectors conducted 15,807 routine inspections representing 10,978 businesses visited to ensure barbershops, salons, tanning facilities, and schools provide competent and sanitary services. During those inspections 1,336 violations were found. Additionally, the Board received 1,307 consumer complaints and 161 violations were issued as a result of the complaint inspections conducted.

Education

The Board strives to assure the highest educational standards for each discipline under its regulatory authority and to uphold the safety and infection control standards necessary to assure public safety. The Board accomplishes this by establishing and monitoring the curriculum for all licensure programs in Board regulated schools. The Board licenses 89 career technical, 82 private, 20 adult education, and 6 Department of Rehabilitation and Correctional schools offering educational programs in cosmetology and barbering.

Budget Overview

The Board is supported through fees generated from applications for initial licensure, renewal fees, fines, and other fees. The Board's fees are deposited into the Occupational and Professional Licensing Fund, called the "4K90" fund, which consist of several commissions and professional licensing boards. The Board does not receive funding from the General Revenue Fund (GRF).

The Board respectfully requests spending authority totaling \$5,418,707 in FY24 and \$5,486,767 in FY25, which reflects the objectives of the Governor as presented in Book 1 of the State of Ohio Executive Budget. This represents a 7.3% decrease in our FY24 funding from our current funding (FY23) level and a 1.3% increase in FY25 over the proposed FY24 funding.

In the Board's original budget request submitted in September 2022, the cost of the Elicense system was the single largest cost in our Supplies and Maintenance expense category. For FY23 the Elicense system costs for the Board were \$629,838. The cost of the Elicense system has been unpredictable but increasing. However, DAS included language in the budget that will eliminate unnecessary chargebacks to boards and commissions for the cost of eLicense by paying for the proportionate share of costs directly from the Fund 4K90.

Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Accomplishments:

SOCC transition:

In compliance with Governor DeWine's Executive Order 2019-15D, the Board worked closely with the Department of Administrative Services Office of Information Technology to complete the move of the Board servers to the State's cloud environment. Doing so provides us with a more stable and reliable environment for Board operations.

Testing

The backlog of testing, due to limited capacity during COVID-19 restrictions, was eliminated. Examination scheduling is now current with minimal wait time for candidates to complete their licensure examinations.

Continuing Education

The overall number of Continuing Education (CE) hours required for licensees and registrants were reduced. The new requirement was revised to concentrate on Infection Control, Safety, and Board Laws and Rules. This also means a cost saving to licensees.

Challenges for 2024/2025 Biennium

Looking forward to the FY24-25 biennium, the Board is committed to efficiently providing services; embracing technology to aid in this goal, searching for and implementing policies that improve compliance and promote fairness, educating licensees to ensure the public receives quality services in a clean and safe environment, and maintaining the educational standards that develop the professionals of the future.

Alignment of Ohio Revised Code 4709 & 4713:

Following the merger of the Ohio Barber Board and the Ohio Cosmetology Board in FY18, the Board conducted a review of the statutes and identified various inequities between the licenses. As an example, a student who has completed their cosmetology program can obtain a work permit prior to testing for their license. A student who has completed their barbering program is unable to do so. Additionally, if a cosmetology student does not pass their exam, they may simply retake the exam as many times as needed, whereas a barber student must return to school for an additional 200 hours of education after a second failed test. This is costly and delays their ability to enter the workforce. We continue to seek a legislative remedy to address these types of inequities.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the current requested budget will allow the Board to continue to protect the Citizens of Ohio and support the licensees at the current level of service as well as promoting professionalism within the industry.

The Board will continue to incorporate conservative business practices by seeking cost effective methods to meet the Board's mission-critical goals and objectives.

Thank you for your consideration of our budget request and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Historical Trends
Number of License Holders by Fiscal Year

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Change from 2010-2020	% Change
Cosmetologist	23,227	20,706	22,642	20,408	22,073	17,639	20,841	20,253	22,027	25,327	23,354	127	1%
Cosmetologist Instructor	5,068	4,511	4,891	4,293	4,643	3,245	3,529	2,821	2,958	3,338	2,532	-2,536	-50%
Managing/Advanced Cosmetologist	51,800	49,246	52,101	49,531	52,185	43,462	44,704	40,327	41,091	42,830	37,188	-14,612	-28%
Esthetician	1,077	904	1,003	886	1,032	982	1,339	1,698	2,097	2,712	3,141	2,064	192%
Esthetics Instructor	142	133	157	137	163	121	137	112	127	167	172	30	21%
Managing/Advanced Esthetician	2,630	2,592	2,996	2,936	3,399	3,035	3,417	3,284	3,541	3,981	3,861	1,231	47%
Hair Designer	211	163	185	136	167	135	165	163	183	210	200	-11	-5%
Hair Designer Instructor	4	2	4	4	6	5	5	4	4	4	5	1	25%
Managing/Advanced Hair Designer	106	116	135	134	145	127	129	113	116	123	107	1	1%
Manicurist	4,176	3,815	4,068	3,815	4,267	3,957	4,731	5,277	5,860	6,777	6,833	2,657	64%
Manicurist Instructor	202	175	201	166	196	132	153	124	131	155	135	-67	-33%
Managing/Advanced Manicurist	7,906	7,626	8,303	7,947	8,566	7,429	7,832	7,107	7,365	7,895	7,191	-715	-9%
Natural Hair Stylist	4	3	5	3	6	5	7	9	10	13	15	11	275%
Natural Hair Stylist Instructor	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	200%
Managing/Advanced Natural Hair Stylist	21	20	26	35	42	34	39	36	37	43	36	15	71%
Independent Contractor	16,687	16,391	19,138	17,994	20,303	19,090	21,506	19,561	21,899	18,178	21,355	4,668	28%
Beauty Salon	9,474	9,166	9,429	9,052	9,379	9,239	9,768	9,631	10,228	10,264	10,753	1,279	14%
Esthetic Salon	471	534	1,013	689	816	982	899	830	916	900	1020	549	117%
Hair Designer Salon	300	294	333	318	328	359	418	336	345	304	294	-6	-2%
Nail Salon	1,047	1,071	1,146	1,159	1,272	1,216	1,250	1,129	1,152	1,069	1,101	54	5%
Natural Hair Stylist Salon	5	6	7	8	16	14	16	16	20	21	22	17	340%
Cosmetology School	182	186	191	193	191	178	169	168	167	163	175	-7	-4%
Tanning Facilities	1,630	1,470	1,465	1,291	1,265	1,100	1,206	1,159	1,195	1,116	1,226	-404	-25%
Boutique Service Registration	-	-	-	-	-	337	955	1,284	2,307	3,729	3,933		
Boutique Service Salon	-	-	-	-	-	32	57	58	93	114	132		
Barbers	9,012	8,039	8,767	8,101	8,663	8,068	8,649	8,026	8,417	8,839	7,769	-1,243	-14%
Barber School	18	14	18	16	19	19	21	21	22	26	22	4	22%
Barber Shop	3,186	2,802	2,903	2,909	2,987	2,852	2,857	2,771	2,875	2,807	2,891	-295	-9%
Barber Teacher	74	71	91	86	92	97	114	120	127	146	145	71	96%
Assistant Barber Teacher	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	16	29	52	61		
Chair Rental License (Barber)	-	-	-	-	-	-	47	92	100	92	70		
Temporary Event Salon License	-	-	-	-	-	60	87	89	174	216	65		
Total Number of Licenses and Registrations	138,661	130,057	141,219	132,250	142,224	123,952	135,049	126,636	135,614	141,613	135,807	-2,854	-2%