



OHIO SALON ASSOCIATION
PROTECT. ELEVATE. UNITE.

ESTD 2012

Proponent Testimony on SB 89

Before the Senate Government Oversight Committee

Tony Fiore, Executive Director, Ohio Salon Association

June 21, 2023

Chairman Roegner, Vice Chair Antani, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson and members of the Senate Government Oversight Committee. My name is Tony Fiore and I serve as the Executive Director of the [Ohio Salon Association](#) (OSA). OSA members are individual licensees, independent contractors, barbershop owners as well as salon owners from a single location to several across the state.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today in support of Senate Bill 89, which proposes Ohio's entry into the Cosmetology Licensure Compact. As a representative of the Ohio Salon Association, I am here to express our strong endorsement of this bill, highlighting its benefits and the support it has garnered from the Department of Defense.

The Cosmetology Licensure Compact is a significant step towards streamlining the licensing process for cosmetologists and addressing the challenges faced by professionals seeking to practice their trade across state lines. This legislation, once enacted, would enable individuals to utilize their existing state license to begin working immediately without delays in a different state, regardless of whether they have relocated permanently or are working there temporarily.

Welcoming a workforce from other compact member states

One of the primary advantages of the Cosmetology Licensure Compact is its ability to facilitate workforce mobility. This is especially critical for military spouses who often face frequent relocations due to their partner's service obligations. The Department of Defense recognizes the importance of occupational portability for military families, and they have voiced their support for this initiative. Ohio recognized this need long ago and established a law allowing military spouses to use this avenue. It is time to make that same pathway available to others. By eliminating the need for cosmetologists to undergo redundant licensing processes upon moving to a new state, the Compact will enhance job opportunities and economic stability while addressing the broader issue of workforce shortages in the cosmetology industry.

The Compact's structure, which is already enjoyed by many other occupations, ensures reciprocity among participating states. Once seven states have joined the Compact, the law will go into effect for those states. This framework has proven effective in numerous other

professions, where it has reduced administrative burdens, encouraged economic growth, and provided greater flexibility for professionals seeking employment opportunities across state borders. By adopting this model, Ohio will align itself with a growing trend aimed at removing unnecessary barriers to workforce mobility, fostering economic development, and promoting job creation.

A national movement for licensure mobility

This type of licensure compact is a national movement. The Future of the Beauty Industry Coalition ([FBIC](#)) has been partnering with the Council of State Government ([CSG](#)) and the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) to support the mobility of licensed cosmetologists throughout the U.S. I've included a [link](#) to the CSG's National Center for Interstate Compacts website along with the Department of Defense Interstate Compact Support for your reference.

This is a bipartisan issue

Thus far, democratic governors Andy Beshear in Kentucky ([SB 57](#)) and Katie Hobbs in Arizona ([HB 2049](#)) along with republican governor Kay Ivey ([HB 246](#)) have signed this legislation in their respective states. As Chairwoman Roegner mentioned the other states considering the compact include California, Nebraska, and Texas. The Texas legislature passed its version of the cosmetology licensure compact, [SB 1815](#), but republican governor Greg Abbott recently vetoed the bill, which I feel he did so in error. He claimed the compact was "ceding sovereign power over to [its] State's cosmetologists to a licensure compact commission that does not yet exist, Texas should wait and see who joins." If Ohio is one of the first seven states to enact the compact, we can show Texas and others how states should encourage workforce mobility across the country.

Why do we need to pass the compact soon?

The first seven (7) states that enact the compact will have a seat on the initial commission that will develop the rules for implementation of the compact law. Therefore, time is of the essence to pass this language out of the Senate, onto the House and then go Governor DeWine for his signature.

In conclusion, I urge you to support Senate Bill 89 and Ohio's entry into the Cosmetology Licensure Compact. This legislation will enable licensed cosmetologists to work in different states without delay or onerous bureaucracy, benefiting not only military families but also professionals seeking to expand their career opportunities. By embracing this initiative, Ohio will join a growing number of states in facilitating workforce mobility, promoting economic growth, and ensuring a fair and efficient regulatory environment for cosmetologists.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am available to answer any questions you may have.