



**Representative Melanie Miller
Ohio House District 67**

**Senate Government Oversight Committee
House Bill 158 – Sponsor Testimony
Wednesday, September 20, 2023**

Chair Roegner, Vice-Chair Antani, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson and members of the Senate Government Oversight Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony in support of House Bill 158. To start, this is bipartisan legislation receiving unanimous support in the House Commerce and Labor Committee and was voted out of the House with 92 yes votes.

Since the State Boards of Cosmetology and Barbering were combined into one board in 2017, we have seen the need to harmonize the sections of the Ohio Revised Code on Cosmetology and Barbering to match. The law is not adequately adjusted to account for this merger. We have a unique opportunity to clean-up the cosmetology and barbing statues to reduce barriers for the profession as we work to improve our workforce.

House Bill 158 is simply a bill to standardize Ohio’s regulation of these personal appearance service providers to create a more efficient pathway for current cosmetologists and barbers as well as the many individuals moving into the field.

As my Joint Sponsor, Representative Roemer, has covered the outline of the functional changes this bill brings to the Barber and Cosmetology industry, I’d like to bring to your attention some of the reasons these changes are necessary. Proper care for your appearance has a positive impact on health by eliminating stress, raises self-esteem and improves the health of hair and nails.ⁱ House Bill 158 will make these services more readily accessible by encouraging more licensed and well-trained barbers and cosmetologists in our workforce to meet the demand.

In Ohio, most cosmetology schools cost between \$11,000 and \$21,500 in tuition along with material costs.ⁱⁱ The choice to attend cosmetology school shows a desire to invest in a skillset that you can practice for years to come. We have an opportunity to partner with students in this investment by streamlining the process, both for their training and certification as well as their practice as fully licensed cosmetologists.

House Bill 158 also reduces the age at which an individual can apply for their barber or cosmetology license to 16 years old. It also changes the requirement of an individual having to

obtain additional training hours if he or she fails to pass their licensing exam. With this change, the bill encourages Ohio students who are able to meet the Cosmetology and Barber Board standards to begin working and building a profession for themselves as soon as they are ready to do so. To complement this change, the bill also cleans up the language in the Ohio Revised Code on sanitation standards and necessary licensure for different areas of practice, which prioritizes the well-being of clients seeking services to encourage their business.

I am confident that these and other changes that update our code will serve to encourage the Barber and Cosmetology industry to grow and thrive in Ohio.

Thank you again, Chairman Roegner and members of the committee for the opportunity to testify before you today. We would be happy to answer any questions you have at this time.

ⁱ <https://beautyinstitute.us/the-positive-impact-cosmetology-has-on-health/#:~:text=Customers%20visiting%20hair%20or%20nail,health%20of%20hair%20and%20nails.>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.cosmetology-license.com/ohio/top-nine-cosmetology-schools-in-ohio/>