



**Testimony Before the House Health Committee
Ohio State Cosmetology and Barber Board
Lori Pearson, Executive Director
February 12, 2025**

Chairwoman Schmidt, ranking member Somani, and members of the House Health Committee, 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, tanning facilities, 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 for the protection of the public receiving such services. To fulfill these responsibilities the Board employs forty-one (41) full-time staff. This includes the Executive Director, Deputy Director, supervisory/administrative positions, customer service, examiners, field inspectors, and processing and fiscal positions.

Board Composition

The Board is comprised of thirteen (13) members representing the barber and cosmetology industries, including individuals, businesses, schools, tanning, and the public. Board members are appointed by the Governor and serve five-year terms, serving members are eligible to be reappointed. The Board holds six regularly scheduled meetings per year. Meetings are held in person at the Board office in Grove City. In addition to regularly scheduled Board meetings, the Board has established three subcommittees and a work group, which permits the Board to address subject-specific issues and make recommendations to the full Board.

Finances of the Board

Pursuant to Chapters 4709 and 4713 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Board is authorized to charge fees for the issuance of licenses and permits and to impose fines for violations of those chapters and the rules adopted thereunder. Total revenue collected in fiscal years ending in odd numbers will be higher in comparison to fiscal years ending in even numbers due to licensure renewal activity, the majority of which occurs during odd-numbered fiscal years.

Professional Licensing

The Board is responsible for the issuance and regulation of professional licenses for the barbering and cosmetology industries. In the practice of cosmetology or a branch of cosmetology, the Board issues two types of practicing licenses: a basic practicing license or an advanced practicing license. In the practice of barbering, a practicing barber license is issued.

Additionally, the Board issues an instructor license for individuals seeking authorization to teach a licensure program in a school. An Independent Contractor license is issued to individuals holding a practicing license who are not an employee of a salon or shop but who rent or lease space within the business.

Lastly, the Board issues a Boutique Service Registration, at no cost, for individuals engaged in boutique services. The scope of services under the boutique services registration are shampooing, braiding, threading, and makeup artistry.

Based upon FY24 data, the Board licensed 98,866 individuals holding a practicing, advanced, or instructor license within the scope of barbering or cosmetology. 23,691 individuals held an independent contractor's license, and 4,785 boutique service registrations were held.

Business Licensing

The Board issues business licenses according to the scope of practice rendered: barbering, cosmetology, esthetics, manicuring, hair design, natural hair styling, or boutique services.

Also, tanning services fall under the scope of the Board and are issued a permit. Tanning facilities, pursuant to provisions of law, must restrict access or limit service based upon the age of the person seeking to use the tanning equipment. The Board develops consent forms, conforming to the Ohio Revised Code, which clearly state the risk factors associated with tanning and skin exposure to radiation produced by UV light sources in tanning systems.

Based upon FY24 data, the Board licensed 16,837 shops and salons, as well as 1,414 tanning facilities.

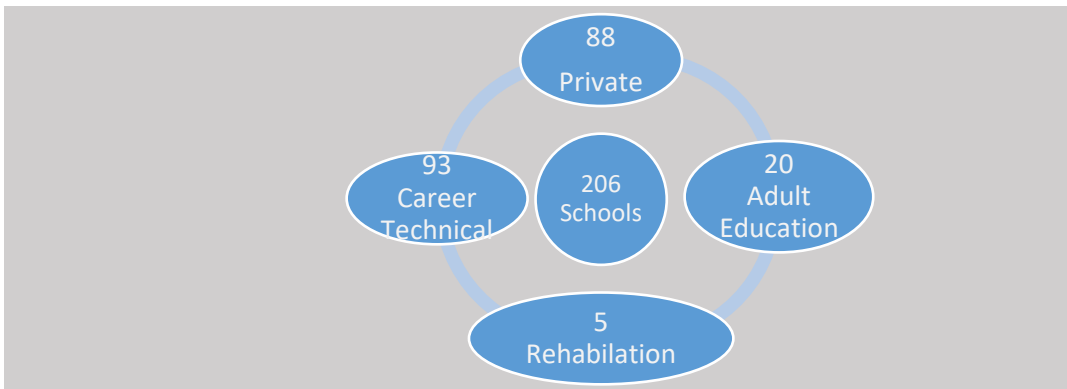
Inspections

The Board is required by the Ohio Revised Code to conduct inspections of licensed or permitted facilities within ninety days of opening a new business, upon complaints reported to the Board, and at least once every two years. In FY24, Board inspectors conducted approximately 16,504 initial, routine, complaint, and follow-up inspections to ensure compliance with licensing, infection control, and safety standards. During those inspections 1,296 violations were found.

In FY24 a total of 1,346 complaints were reported to the Board via the 800-complaint line or the online complaint portal. Complaints are reviewed for Board jurisdiction of the subject matter. Complaints are closed due to lack of jurisdiction, resolved with a letter, or sent to an inspector to perform a complaint inspection. There were 167 violations issued due to complaint inspections conducted.

Education

The Board is responsible for licensing schools that offer licensure training programs in barbering, cosmetology, or branches of cosmetology. There are four different types of schools that offer these educational programs: Private (Proprietary), Career Technical (High School), Adult Education, and Rehabilitation and Corrections. During FY24 a total of 206 schools were licensed to offer these programs to students.



The licensure programs and their required number of hours to complete them are set in the Ohio Revised Code.

Examination

The Board is required by the Ohio Revised Code to conduct an examination for individuals who complete an approved program in Ohio and seek licensure. Upon completion and approval of an examination application, candidates select a date for testing through the Board's Online exam scheduling calendar. Approximately 30 - 50 candidates are scheduled for testing daily at the Board's on-site exam center located at the Board office in Grove City. The exam center provides a centralized location where all examinations are proctored by full-time trained examination staff in a professional testing environment that affords the ability for a consistent and uniform examination for all candidates.

Two examinations are administered for each practicing license type issued. A theory-based (computer) examination that is developed by a national testing company, and a state-constructed examination based on the national textbook standards for each profession and the infection control and safety standards established in the Ohio Revised and Administrative Codes.

During FY24, the Board administered a total of 15,666 examinations for barbering, cosmetology, and the branches of cosmetology. Of these examinations, 12,458 were first-time candidates.

Budget Overview

Board operations are self-sustained through fees generated from initial licensure, license renewal, fines, and other miscellaneous sources. The Board contributes to the Occupational and Professional Licensing Fund (4K90). The Board is funded through the standard biennial budget process. Every two years the Board reviews licensure fees and budget requirements to determine necessary adjustments.

The Board respectfully requests spending authority totaling \$5,523,412 in FY26 and \$5,841,066 in FY27. This budget request represents a 6.4% decrease in the 520 maintenance line items due to changes to Chapter 119 of the Revised Code, as well as required licensure posting under Chapter 4709 of the Revised Code, as amended by HB 158 during the 135th General Assembly. These changes have reduced spending on postage by \$6,000 (27%). This includes savings due to the electronic issuance of barber licenses as well as reduction in certified mail for Notices and Board Orders sent by the Board which previously cost approximately nine dollars each and is now largely reduced by one service.

Additionally, this proposal includes a 9% decrease in the 510 personal services line item due to changes to Chapter 4709 of the Revised Code, amended by HB 158 during the 135th General Assembly, which also reduced the cost of the Chapter 119 Administrative procedures by removing hearings as a matter of right,

commonly referred to as Goldman hearings, for Barber violations. This results in savings of an estimated \$6,400 (27%) for hearing costs.

Also, because of the passage of HB 158, the Board now has the ability to reduce fees for Barbers, so they are more consistent with cosmetology fees. These fees were previously fixed fees determined by the legislature. This amendment has allowed the Board to significantly lower fees in several areas. The full extent of the savings will not be seen until the next renewal cycle, when many of these reductions take effect.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the Board will continue to strive to ensure that individuals and businesses offering barbering, cosmetology, and boutique services do so by following the infection control and safety guidelines needed to ensure accountability to Ohioans seeking these services. We 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 Licensure Data

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change from 2014-2024	% Change
Cosmetologist	22,642	20,408	22,073	17,639	20,841	20,253	22,027	25,327	23,354	22,526	26,585	3,943	17%
Cosmetologist Instructor	4,891	4,293	4,643	3,245	3,529	2,821	2,958	3,338	2,532	2,238	2,450	-2,441	-48%
Advanced Cosmetologist	52,101	49,531	52,185	43,462	44,704	40,327	41,091	42,830	37,188	33,767	34,830	-17,271	-33%
Esthetician	1,003	886	1,032	982	1,339	1,698	2,097	2,712	3,141	3,497	5,152	4,149	385%
Esthetics Instructor	157	137	163	121	137	112	127	167	172	177	232	75	53%
Advanced Esthetician	2,996	2,936	3,399	3,035	3,417	3,284	3,541	3,981	3,861	3,749	4,284	1,288	49%
Hair Designer	185	136	167	135	165	163	183	210	200	215	284	99	47%
Hair Designer Instructor	4	4	6	5	5	4	4	4	5	7	7	3	75%
Advanced Hair Designer	135	134	145	127	129	113	116	123	107	95	97	-38	-36%
Manicurist	4,068	3,815	4,267	3,957	4,731	5,277	5,860	6,777	6,833	6,816	9,552	5,484	131%
Manicurist Instructor	201	166	196	132	153	124	131	155	135	133	154	-47	-23%
Advanced Manicurist	8,303	7,947	8,566	7,429	7,832	7,107	7,365	7,895	7,191	6,683	7,226	-1,077	-14%
Natural Hair Stylist	5	3	6	5	7	9	10	13	15	9	14	9	225%
Natural Hair Stylist Instructor	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	2	1	100%
Advanced Natural Hair Stylist	26	35	42	34	35	36	37	43	36	31	38	12	57%
Independent Contractor	19,138	17,994	20,303	19,090	21,506	19,561	21,899	18,178	21,355	20,239	23,579	4,441	27%
Beauty Salon	9,429	9,052	9,379	9,239	9,768	9,631	10,228	10,264	10,753	10,606	11,247	1,818	19%
Esthetic Salon	1,013	689	816	982	899	830	916	900	1020	995	1113	100	21%
Hair Designer Salon	333	318	328	359	418	336	345	304	294	260	264	-69	-23%
Manicuring Salon	1,146	1,159	1,272	1,216	1,250	1,129	1,152	1,069	1,101	1,038	1,081	-65	-6%
Natural Hair Stylist Salon	7	8	16	14	16	16	20	21	22	14	17	10	200%
Cosmetology School	191	193	191	178	169	168	167	163	175	177	178	-13	-7%
Tanning Facilities	1,465	1,291	1,265	1,100	1,206	1,159	1,195	1,116	1,226	1,237	1,414	-51	-3%
Boutique Service Registration	-	-	-	337	955	1,284	2,307	3,729	3,933	3,014	4,785		
Boutique Service Salon	-	-	-	32	57	58	93	114	132	118	131		
Barbers	8,767	8,101	8,663	8,068	8,649	8,026	8,417	8,839	7,765	7,012	7,720	-1,047	-12%
Barber School	18	16	19	19	21	21	22	26	22	28	28	10	56%
Barber Shop	2,903	2,909	2,987	2,852	2,857	2,771	2,875	2,807	2,891	2,846	2,984	81	3%
Barber Teacher	91	86	92	97	114	120	127	146	145	144	162	71	96%
Assistant Barber Teacher	-	-	-	-	2	16	29	52	61	50	77		
Chair Rental License (Barber)	-	-	-	-	47	92	100	92	70	86	112		
Temporary Event Salon License	-	-	-	60	87	89	174	216	65	11	19		
Total Number of Licenses and Registrations	141,219	132,250	142,224	123,952	135,049	126,636	135,614	141,613	135,807	127,819	145,818	4,599	3%

Licensure Programs, including the number of hours, are set in the Ohio Revised Code.

	Required Hours
Cosmetology	1500
Advanced Cosmetology	1800
Stand Alone Advanced Cosmetology	300
Hair Design	1000
Advanced Hair Design	1240
Stand Alone Advanced Hair Design	240
Natural Hair Styling	450
Advanced Natural Hair Styling	600
Stand Alone Advanced Natural Hair Styling	150
Esthetics	600
Advanced Esthetics	750
Stand Alone Advanced Esthetics	150
Manicure	200
Advanced Manicure	300
Stand Alon Advanced Manicure	100
Barbering	1800
Barbering (already holds a COS license)	1000