



Testimony Before the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

Ohio State Cosmetology and Barber Board

Lori Pearson, Executive Director

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Chair Schaffer, Vice Chair Koehler, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Lori Pearson, and I am the Executive Director of the Ohio State Cosmetology and Barber Board. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony regarding the budget request for the Ohio State Cosmetology and Barber Board ("the Board"). The Board plays a vital role in supporting industry professionals and ensuring compliance with infection control and safety standards across salons, barbershops, schools, and tanning facilities throughout Ohio.

Regulatory Oversight and Industry Impact

Through regulation and education, the Board upholds the integrity of the cosmetology and barbering industries by providing oversight of licensing, inspections, and compliance. In FY24, the Board issued nearly 125,000 practicing and independent contractors licenses, in addition to approximately 4,800 boutique service registrations, 16,000 salon and shop licenses, and approximately 1,400 tanning facility permits. These numbers reinforce the necessity of maintaining reasonable standards to protect consumers and industry professionals alike.

Budget Considerations and Fiscal Responsibility

The Board respectfully requests spending authority totaling \$5,523,412 in FY26 and \$5,841,066 in FY27, which reflects a responsible approach to financial management, incorporating cost-saving measures such as reductions in postage and administrative hearing expenses, which were made possible by recent legislative changes. These adjustments demonstrate the Board's commitment to operating efficiently while preserving high standards of professional oversight.

Additionally, the Board's ability to reduce barbering licensure fees ensures fairness for industry professionals, keeping costs aligned with cosmetology licensure fees. As industry continues to evolve, the Board's budget supports ongoing education, regulatory enforcement, and consumer protection measures to meet the demands of Ohioans.

Stakeholder Impact

The Board's work directly impacts a wide range of stakeholders, including licensed professionals, business owners, and consumers.

Industry professionals rely on the Board's oversight to ensure fair licensing practices, standardized examinations, and enforcement of infection control and safety regulations. The ability to ensure compliance with uniform standards and regulations enhances professional credibility in Ohio's cosmetology and barbering professionals.

Business owners benefit from the Board's regulatory structure, which provides clear guidelines for compliance. The Board's continued oversight in the examination process ensures that licensees can be expected to perform at the level expected of a professional upon entering the workforce.

Consumers are safeguarded through enforcement of industry standards, ensuring that services provided in licensed facilities adhere to infection control and safety measures, which enhance trust in the industry and protects the public from the misuse of harmful chemicals and dangerous implements.

Licensing and Examination Standards

The Board is also responsible for licensing schools that offer training programs in barbering, cosmetology, and branches of cosmetology. There are four different types of schools that provide 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, ensuring a well-trained and qualified workforce.

The Board is mandated by the Ohio Revised Code to conduct licensing examinations for individuals who complete an approved program in Ohio. Each professional license requires:

- A **theory-based (computer) examination** developed by a national testing company.
- A **state-constructed practical (hands-on) examination** based on national textbook standards and Ohio's infection control and safety codes.

In FY24, the Board administered approximately 16,000 examinations for barbering, cosmetology, and branches of cosmetology, reinforcing competency requirements in the industry.

Financial Considerations

Board operations are self-sustained through fees generated from initial licensure, license renewal, and fines. The Board contributes to the (4K90) fund and is funded through the standard biennial budget process.

Revenue collected and expenditures will be higher in fiscal years ending in odd numbers in comparison to fiscal years ending in even numbers due to licensure renewal activity, the majority of which occurs during odd-numbered fiscal years. This trend directly impacts budget planning to ensure that revenue and expense fluctuations are anticipated and responsibly managed.

Complaint Investigations and Inspections

In FY24, a total of 1,346 complaints were reported to the Board via the 800-complaint line or the online complaint portal. These complaints were reviewed to determine jurisdiction and appropriate action. Over 16,000 facility inspections were completed, supporting the Board's mission of maintaining industry integrity and safety.

Conclusion

I respectfully request approval of the Board's budget, which allows the Board to protect and support the public through regulation and education, while protecting the integrity of the cosmetology and barbering industries.

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 time and consideration. 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	17,633	20,841	20,253	22,027	25,327	23,354	22,526	26,583	3,941	17%
Cosmetologist Instructor	4,897	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	52,103	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	884	1,032	982	1,335	1,698	2,097	2,712	3,141	3,497	5,152	4,149	385%
Esthetics Instructor	157	137	163	127	137	117	127	167	177	177	237	77	53%
Advanced Esthetician	2,994	2,934	3,394	3,033	3,417	3,284	3,547	3,981	3,861	3,749	4,284	1,288	49%
Hair Designer	185	134	167	133	163	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	125	113	111	123	107	95	97	-38	-36%
Manicurist	4,064	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	207	164	194	137	157	124	137	153	135	133	154	-47	-23%
Advanced Manicurist	8,303	7,947	8,566	7,423	7,832	7,107	7,365	7,895	7,197	6,683	7,226	-1,077	-14%
Natural Hair Stylist	8	8	6	9	9	9	14	13	15	9	14	9	225%
Natural Hair Stylist Instructor	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	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	9,425	9,052	9,379	9,233	9,768	9,631	10,228	10,264	10,753	10,606	11,247	1,818	19%
Esthetic Salon	1,013	684	814	982	894	830	914	900	1020	995	1113	100	21%
Hair Designer Salon	333	313	323	353	413	334	343	304	294	260	264	-69	-23%
Manicuring Salon	1,144	1,154	1,272	1,214	1,250	1,129	1,152	1,069	1,107	1,038	1,081	-69	-6%
Natural Hair Stylist Salon	7	8	16	14	16	16	26	21	22	14	17	10	200%
Cosmetology School	197	193	197	178	163	163	163	163	175	177	178	-13	-7%
Tanning Facilities	1,463	1,297	1,263	1,100	1,206	1,159	1,195	1,116	1,226	1,237	1,414	-51	-3%
Boutique Service Registration	-	-	-	33	95	1,284	2,307	3,729	3,933	3,014	4,785		
Boutique Service Salon	-	-	-	37	57	58	97	114	132	118	131		
Barbers	8,767	8,107	8,663	8,063	8,649	8,026	8,417	8,839	7,769	7,012	7,720	-1,047	-12%
Barber School	18	14	19	15	27	27	27	26	22	28	28	10	56%
Barber Shop	2,903	2,903	2,987	2,857	2,857	2,777	2,875	2,807	2,891	2,846	2,984	81	3%
Barber Teacher	97	84	92	97	114	120	127	146	145	144	162	71	96%
Assistant Barber Teacher	-	-	-	-	7	16	27	52	61	50	77		
Chair Rental License (Barber)	-	-	-	-	47	97	107	92	70	86	112		
Temporary Event Salon License	-	-	-	60	87	85	174	216	65	11	19		
Total Number of Licenses and Registrations	141,215	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.

Licensure	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