

4/27/2017

Legislative Aide: Taylor Stepp

Re: Substitute H.B.49 pertaining to Merging the Ohio Barber Board and Cosmetology Board

As Former Executive Director of the Barber Board, I would like for you to seriously consider the following points regarding the proposal to merge the Barber and Cosmetology Boards and why it would be detrimental to the barber profession as well as the state of Ohio:

- > This is a major change to the hair industry in Ohio that would be detrimental to both the barbering and cosmetology professions. Many states across the country have tried similar measures, resulting in inefficiency and delays in licensing and inspections, which ultimately poses a health risk to the public.
- >The state of Minnesota tried for years to merge the Barber and Cosmetology Boards. When it was accomplished, the difficulties and inefficiencies associated with the change resulted in major issues. In the end, the boards were reinstated as separate entities and the problems associated with the merge prompted the governor to admonish the legislature to never bring it up again.
- >Neither the barber nor cosmetology board was aware of this proposal before it was presented, making it impossible for legislators to hear the real impact this change would have.
- >From a budgetary standpoint, the Barber Board is self-sustaining through fees already in place. Merging the boards would not have any appreciable financial improvement for the state of Ohio. In fact, the Barber Board produces a surplus of approximately \$100,000 annually, thus allowing the funds to be moved into the general revenue fund.
- >Unintended consequences would occur as a result of the merger
- >The Barber Board stimulates the economy by holding exams every 3 weeks; we test on Mondays and those who pass have their license in hand by that Friday and are able to begin earning income. Combining the boards would impact the efficiency of the testing procedures by reducing the number of board members who are qualified to conduct testing. This would reduce the number of qualified candidates who can earn their license each month.
- >The Barber Board has worked effectively for over 60 years with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, operating 5 prison schools and licensing more than 80 excellent barbers per year. Of all the professions that are taught in prison, inmates who become licensed barbers have the lowest rate of recidivism.
- > Within our global society, the Barber Board continues to assist all out of country barbers and introduce them to Ohio's requirements for licensing. It is a high priority of this Board to assure that all out of country applicants receive fair and impartial treatment.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Howard Warner
Licensed Barber