

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Stephens, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present proponent testimony on HB 399.

I, Prince Fields, am writing proponent testimony to inform you of the wrong doings concerning my barber instructor license education.

In March 2019, I enrolled at Beyond Expectations Barber College (BEBC) in Akron, Ohio. Twice a week, I drove 218 miles round trip per day. I completed the program in October 2019. While attending the school, I went above and beyond to ensure I did everything that was asked of me. I spent countless nights studying material for the tests given at BEBC. Needless to say, the multitude of hours spent away from my family and out of my shop took an emotional and financial toll. However, I knew that it would be worth the strife and stress in the long run.

In November 2019, I took the Barber Teacher Theory Examination. Going in to take the exam, I was confident that I would pass. I was told the photocopied, multiple choice material given to me by the owner and the Assistant Director of Education at BEBC, was all I needed to study in order to be successful when taking the exam. I studied every night for three weeks, because I had a lot on the line concerning the passing of the exam. Unfortunately, I did not pass the exam. I received a score of 73%. I was devastated.

Upon further investigation, I found out that when I enrolled at BEBC, I should have received a hardback edition of the Milady 3rd edition Master Educator textbook. Instead, I received photocopies of the material. Secondly, I was never informed about the Testing Information Packet (TIP) for Barber Teaching Theory on the Ohio State Cosmetology and Barber Board website. I invested \$2,700 in tuition, hundreds of hours both in travelling and studying, put over 13,300 miles on my car (valued at the \$7,716.90 per the 2019 IRS mileage rate) and have nothing to show for my investment. BEBC did not even provide me with the standard Milady text book as part of my tuition. At the very least BEBC should have given me the option to buy the Milady book, at an additional cost and inform me about the TIP.

I strongly feel that I was not given an appropriate education by BEBC and taken advantage of by the college. Therefore, I am asking the Ohio State Barber Board to allow me the opportunity to retake the test, with proper preparation, and without having to honor the one year waiting period, which is normally required under Revised Code 4709.10(C)(4). I presented this information to the Ohio State Cosmetology and Barber Board, but the Board has no discretion to grant my request. Therefore, I'm asking you to pass HB 399 which changes the law and eliminate the one year waiting period.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on HB 399, the Cosmetology Reform Act.