
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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JOINT MEETING — BOARD OF BARBERING AND BOARD OF COSMETOLOGY ARTS AND SCIENCES — MAY 2019

Meeting. The [Board of Barbering](#) (BB) and the [Board of Cosmetology Arts and Sciences](#) (BCAS) held a joint meeting on May 20, 2019, to discuss recent bills from the 2019 Legislative Session that would merge the two boards and make corresponding changes to the licensing of the regulated professions ([HF 695](#) and [SF 582](#)).

Discussion. The staff for the boards gave a high-level overview of the legislation. The board members asked questions, discussed concerns about what was in the bills, outlined priorities, and received public comment. From this conversation, the following major priorities arose, although no specific recommendations were adopted:

- Merging the two boards was generally supported. There were perceived advantages in staffing, administration, finance, and regulation due to the similar nature of the two professions. It was recommended to review Missouri and Wisconsin as recent states that have merged barbering and cosmetology boards.
- Scope of practice and regulation issues were analyzed. While it was not the only issue identified, much of the conversation utilized the example of shaving, which falls within the scope of practice of barbers. There was discussion about how to maintain the historical integrity of the barbering profession and the language used around that. Options discussed included:
 - Maintaining fixed licensure types that have their own distinct scopes of practice. Therefore, an individual would be required to choose which profession to be licensed in based on the service the individual might want to offer.
 - Having a more à la carte licensing regime that would involve a baseline licensure scope of practice. This would allow an individual to pursue additional training and certifications for whichever additional services the individual is interested in offering.
- Training requirements and the number of training hours required for initial licensure were discussed. This subject drew strong opinions. Most of the conversation related to the scope of practice discussion. There were many viewpoints on the relative merits of requiring 2,100 hours versus 1,500 hours, or a compromise position of 1,800 hours. Facets of this conversation included barriers to entry for the professions, student loans, public protection, and underserved towns and neighborhoods of the State.
- Both boards expressed a desire to resume a more active role in inspection of the professions. Currently, inspections are largely conducted on a complaint-driven basis. The boards are interested in working toward a financial position to have inspectors visit all salons or barbershops on some sort of recurring basis. Some of the practical implications discussed concerning future inspections utilized the shaving example again, including the fact that BCAS prohibits the presence of razor-edged instruments and that adding shaving to the cosmetologist's scope of practice would potentially impact the inspection for other prohibited actions.

Next Steps. The tentative plan for the boards is to assign representatives to subcommittees to tackle the issues highlighted above. The goal will be to prepare a set of recommendations approved by each board for the General Assembly to consider during the 2020 Legislative Session. After establishing this goal, the BB adjourned, and the BCAS proceeded with its regular business meeting.

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