

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee members

This is testimony pertaining to HB2419, regarding changes to the statutes for the Kansas board of barbering.

The changes to the agency statutes are minimal for the most part, many are merely clarifying language and making the statutes more easily understood.

There are changes that outline administrative proceedings more clearly, and guidelines for the agency to review criminal history of applicants. These changes were made at the advice of our legal counsel within the Attorney General's office. (65-1824, 65-1826)

Regarding the list of definitions, these changes are made to reflect some new terminology included in the statutes as well as define more clearly those things already in place such as "student permit" and "infectious or contagious disease". (65-1809)

The substantive changes the agency is requesting include:

1. (65-1812c) Describes guidelines allowing graduates of barber schools who wish to have a temporary permit to practice barbering within a licensed barber shop while waiting to take the next practical hands-on examination.
2. (65-1812d) Restores experience requirement for persons to become licensed as instructors. We feel this is necessary because there has been a significant drop in number of graduates successfully completing the written portion of the examination which may be a result of that experience requirement being removed a few years ago.
3. (65-1812e) Establishes a Senior Status license, allowing a licensed barber who is 70 years of age, has been licensed for at least 40 years and would like to "hold" their barber license, but is no longer practicing. This would also allow that person to re-enter the workforce without penalty. This license would have a one-time fee and would only need to be restored if/when that individual decided to re-enter the barber profession.
4. (65-1813) Includes a requirement for out-of-state applicants to pass a short examination of the rules and regulations pertaining to safety and sanitation within Kansas barber shops, and to provide government-issued ID with their application for a barber license.
5. (65-1815) Outlines the examination procedures for licensure and lowers the passing score for the written portion of the test from 80% to 75%. Further, there is the ability for students currently enrolled in barber school to take the written examination after 1000 clock hours of attendance. This change is being made to allow students to take the more demanding written portion of the test while the information is still "fresh" in their mind. Ideally, it will also potentially reduce some of the stress and anxiety that come from having the logistical considerations inherent with the practical examination.
6. (65-1816) Eliminates Seminar Permits and in its place establishes Charitable Events. There have been no seminar permits issued in 2 decades. Instead we have inserted guidelines for charitable events regarding posting of licenses and verifying supplies, equipment to be used. There will be no charge for these.
7. (65-1817) Fee maximum limit increases are being requested mostly as a time-saving effort. There is no intent of raising the cost of any fees collected by the agency in the near future. They are included here because all fees are currently at the maximum allowable amount and have

been for over 10 years. This would enable future boards to fund the agency without financial incapacity.

Two of the fees we would like to change to reduce cost to testing candidates. Currently the fee for examination is \$100, per exam. This finances the board members' expenses (mileage, per diem, and lodging) to conduct the practical hands-on exam and the previously used paper exam cost.

The prior cost of administering the paper version of written examination from the vendor was \$18 per exam. Last year that testing was converted to computer-based and the cost for that exam is now \$58 per exam. Any time a candidate fails the written exam, they must submit another application for testing and the current fee of \$100. This bill is asking those two exams to be paid separately, one fee for written testing which is intended to be set at \$60, and one fee for practical exam to be set at \$75 (travel, lodging and per diem= \$72 average per candidate for the agency currently).

The other changes to this section are to reduce the length of time a license can be lapsed from 3 years to 2 years, to aid our staff in maintaining records more easily. Another is to initiate a minor fee for a chair lease license to more accurately "track" the number of barbers practicing and their locations. Also included in this section is the previously mentioned senior status licenses.

In closing we would like to reiterate that our agency is entirely fee-funded, and we strive to be resourceful with the funds we collect. We feel these changes are beneficial and not too far reaching. We appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Thank you

Kansas Board of Barbering