



March 18, 2013

House Bill No. 2155

**Creation of Apprentice Licenses and Temporary Permits for Body Art Professions and
Change of License Period for Body Art Practitioners**

Madam Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Christy Hammond and I currently serve as the Legal Specialist for the Board of Cosmetology. Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony regarding the proposed creation of apprentice licenses and temporary permits for body art professions as well the change in the licensure period for body art practitioners.

The body art profession in Kansas has been growing in recent years. There has been a 35% increase in the number of tattoo artists in Kansas since 2008. Much of this increase occurred in fiscal years 2011 and 2012. If all of the current body art apprentices become licensed in the next year, there will be a 23.2% increase in the number of licensed tattoo artists and a 16.2% increase in the number of body piercers.

The Kansas statutes currently define a body art “apprentice” as a person licensed by the board to engage in learning the practice of the body arts. However, no statute currently provides for an apprentice license. Without a statute that officially creates an apprentice license, the board is unable to charge a fee for issuing the license. The board currently issues apprentice licenses to apprentices in the cosmetology professions for a fee of \$15. The board would charge this same fee for body art apprentice licenses. The board had about 27 body art apprentices in the past year and this number rises each year.

Similarly, there is no temporary permit for body art in the Kansas statutes. The purpose of a temporary permit is to allow body artists to continue to work under supervision after they have completed their training but before they are able to take the examination. Currently, a temporary permit for cosmetology professions is provided for by statute but no similar statute exists for body art. The board currently issues temporary permits in the cosmetology professions for a fee of \$15. The board would charge this same fee for body art temporary permits.

Finally, this bill proposes changing the body art practitioner license expiration period from one year to two years. Currently, all other practitioner licenses issued by the board of cosmetology are issued for two year periods. This change would align body art



practitioner licenses with licenses for all other professions regulated by the board, thus reducing confusion for licensees and the public. Additionally, the two year renewal period will decrease the amount of work required by office staff in issuing body art practitioner licenses. Half as many renewal applications and half as many licenses would need to be printed. Finally, this change would benefit body art practitioners by reducing the amount of fees they must pay and the paperwork they must file. The board of cosmetology has been working to reduce fees across the board. Currently, the fee for a cosmetology practitioner license is \$45 for two years but the fee for a body art practitioner license is \$50 for an initial one year license and \$100 for a one year renewal. This proposed change would reduce the body art practitioner initial license fee to \$50 for two years and the body art practitioner license renewal fee to \$100 for two years. Additionally, the board is currently working on regulatory changes which would reduce the body art practitioner license renewal fee to \$50. As the body art community continues to grow, the board could later reduce these fees even further in the future.

Thank you again for this opportunity and I stand for questions.

Christy Hammond,
Legal Specialist