

Mr. Chairman and Committee members,
I was raised in Spiritwood/Jamestown until 1985 (Go Blue Jays) but graduated from Dickinson High in 1986 (Go Midgets).

I am the President of the State Board of Cosmetology. We, as a board, serve: 1942 Salons and/or renter, 6926 Cosmetologist, 535 Estheticians, 789 Manicurist, 85 Instructors, 4 schools (2 in Fargo, 1 in Grand Forks, 1 in Bismarck) with a 5th opening soon in Williston, along with 233 students.

The instructors need to complete 8 hours of continuing education per year. There is no continuing education required for our other licensees.

Our mission is to ensure the health and safety of North Dakota consumers by promoting ethical standards and by enforcing the laws of the beauty industry. It is the duty of the board to protect the public health, welfare, and safety through the prevention of the creating and the spreading of infectious and contagious diseases.

Today I introduce to you, SB 2092 as passed in the Senate. We, the State Board of Cosmetology, tirelessly went through our laws word by word. Our goal was to clean up outdated language and definitions, add in definitions that are needed, create consistency in repeated language, and clarify the grey areas. We want our laws to be better understood by our industry's professionals and future professionals. And, for those coming into our state from other states and especially other countries. And we also wanted to better outline what our industry's professionals could do within the scope of their license.

Page 8. Line 20.

We are seeking to lower the minimum requirement of training and instruction in cosmetology to fifteen hundred hours from eighteen hundred hours so our future licensees can get into the field sooner, making money sooner. This would be a minimum requirement of hours. We boarder with Mn at 1550 hours, SD at 1500 hours and MT at 1500 hours. According to National Interstate Council of State Boards, the national average is 1600 hours.

New cosmetologists from Mn are having trouble getting started in our state due to lack of school hours and the lack of work experience. We are aware that some students go to school in other states and then come back here or because of life end up in ND. We want to accommodate licensees and future licensees without harm to the public. This does not say that schools could not have advanced classes for those students wanting to gain more education before entering the work force.

Page 12. Lines 29-30. Page 13. Lines 1-2.

We did not want to hold up students from retaking their test if failed twice or more. We want them to be able to retake without attending more schooling. Nerves and language barriers are sometimes their problem more so than needing more schooling.

Page 14. Lines 8-14.

We want individuals coming from foreign lands to know that their credits, qualifications, and work experiences are important to us.

Page 14. Lines 19-29.

We are clarifying how a master license can be obtained.

Page 18. Lines 8-31. Page 19. Lines 1-4.

This is a big section we redid for better clarification on license renewal. We also create leniency to licensees who, for whatever life reason, have missed renewing their license. Instead retesting after missing the renewal date two years in a row, it is up to four years. The testing is of course because laws and rules change and its information they need to know. After five years, a licensee with a lapsed license will need to reapply under the requirements of a initial licensure.

As you can see, there are changes, clean up and clarifications. We ask that you pass as presented.

Also enclosed HB 1426. I want you to know that there is a bill in the Senate also on the topic of cosmetology.

Thank you for your time.

Submitted by Maureen Wanner,
President, State Board of Cosmetology