

# Alaska State Legislature

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## Senator Lesil McGuire

### Sponsor Statement for Senate Bill 168

#### **“An Act relating to the membership of the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers**

Senate Bill 168 aims to create equal Board representation for all licensees governed by the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers. This restructuring of the Board will not remove any current board member from their position, and it carries a zero general fund fiscal note.

As of February 3, 2015, the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers oversees 2,271 Hairdressers, 962 Manicurists and Nail Technicians, 542 Estheticians, 151 Barbers, and 146 Tattoo/Permanent Cosmetic Colorist/Body Piercers. The current Board structure is 1) Hairdresser, 1) Hairdresser/Esthetician combo, 1) Tattoo/Permanent Cosmetic Colorist/Body Piercer, 1) Public Member, 2) Barbers.

#### Providing Board Representation for Nearly 1,000 Currently Unrepresented Nail Technicians

In 2015, legislation was passed requiring those practicing the art of manicuring to receive education and to pass a nationally recognized examination. Current statute does not provide a nail technician seat on the Board. As the second largest body of licensees overseen by the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers, nail technicians should be given a seat at the table to advocate for their industry. This bill ensures that nail technicians be given a Board position.

#### Creating a More Balanced Number of Board Members

This bill increases the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers from six to seven members. This will create an odd number of voting members, better assuring a tie-break in certain Board decisions. Seven members also make it more likely to have a quorum at Board meetings and teleconferences.

#### Evenly Distributing Board Representation for Current Seats

When the Board seats were created, Alaska had approximately 1,200 Barbers. We currently have 151 in the entire state. There is an over-representation from a minor licensee group, which not only makes Board recruitment difficult, but it gives an over-abundance of voice to the Barbering industry. This bill will change one of the Barber seats to allow for any licensee group governed by this Board.