



Representative Ashley Carrick

Alaska State House ~ District 35, West Fairbanks

Chair, House State Affairs ~ Co-Chair, House Transportation

Member, House Labor, and Commerce ~ Member, Tribal Affairs

HB 243

Sponsor Statement

January 20, 2026

An Act relating to the powers and duties of the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers and the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development; and providing for an effective date.

The Board of Barbers and Hairdressers is the main board that focuses on licensing cosmetic industries including barbers, hairdressers, hair braiders, estheticians, manicurists, body piercings, tattoo artists, and more. Since this Board has a wide array of professions within its jurisdiction and a large volume of practitioners, it has been a long-standing practice of the board to delegate licensing authority to the Division of Corporations, Businesses, and Professional Licensure to prevent licensing backlogs. Without the ability to delegate licensing, the all-volunteer board would need to individually approve over 1000 licenses per year. That would not only lead to a drastically increased workload for the all-volunteer Board resulting in possible licensing backlogs, it would take the attention of the Board away from its other duties including drafting and reforming regulations, adjudicating licensing disputes, overseeing the issuance of licenses, and more!

HB 243 provides statutory clarity that the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers may delegate licensing authority to the Division of Corporations, Businesses, and Professional Licensure. This bill comes at the request of the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers and its Chair Kevin McKinley. Since this bill codifies an existing practice of both the Board and Division – the delegation of licensing – this bill is not projected to have any fiscal impact.

As we have seen in recent years, professional and business licensing backlogs put a serious burden on our workforce and economy. I hope you will join me in supporting HB 243 to reduce the potential of future licensing backlogs for the professions licensed by the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers and keep the many small businesses and working Alaskans safely operating in their profession.

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