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Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development

BOARD OF BARBERS AND HAIRDRESSERS

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Legislative Sponsorship Request

September 2025

The Board of Barbers and Hairdressers has identified a simple improvement that requires a common-sense change to statute. Your support for this urgent change is requested either by sponsoring, co-sponsoring, or voting in favor of this statutory update.

Delegation of License and Permit Approval to Staff

For more than a decade, the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers has delegated to staff the ability to approve licenses and permits to applicants for barbing, hairdressing, esthetics, hair braiding, tattoo, and permanent cosmetic coloring who meet the requirements of statute and regulation. Recently, the statutory interpretation of the Department of Law changed, now prohibiting the board from continuing this practice.

In FY24, there were 1050 new credentials issued, and the number of applications increases annually. There have been no complaints of incorrectly issued licenses or permits or harms resulting from staff issuing these credentials. However, if our seven-person volunteer board is now expected to review and vote on every license or permit, in addition to our investigative review and regulatory projects, it will be impossible for members to review and vote on the estimated 20 applications per week. We anticipate extreme delays in getting qualified Alaskans to work and face the possibility that board members will no longer have the time to serve, effectively paralyzing the industry.

The proposal, below, would allow the board to appropriately delegate to staff the work they have already been competently and efficiently performing for the last decade.

The statutory changes requested are as follows:

AS 08.13.030. Powers and duties of the board. (b) The board shall

- (1) examine applicants and authorize the department to issue [APPROVE THE ISSUANCE OF] licenses and permits to practice;
- (2) authorize the department to issue [ISSUANCE OF] licenses for schools of barbing, hairdressing, manicuring, and esthetics;
- (3) develop written instructions and notices that tattooing, permanent cosmetic coloring, and body piercing shop owners and practitioners are required to give or display under AS 08.13.215;

- (4) enforce the provisions of this chapter, regulations adopted under this chapter, and regulations relating to barbering, hairdressing, hair braiding, manicuring, and esthetics adopted under AS 44.46.020(a)(5)(C).
- (c) The board may
 - (1) deny, suspend, or revoke a license or permit;
 - (2) on its own motion or upon receipt of a written complaint, conduct hearings and request the
 - (A) Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development to investigate the practices of a person, shop, or school involved in the practice or teaching of barbering, hairdressing, hair braiding, manicuring, or esthetics, or
 - (B) Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development or the Department of Environmental Conservation to investigate the practices of a person, shop, or school involved in the practice or teaching of body piercing, tattooing, or permanent cosmetic coloring;
 - (3) adopt regulations or do any act necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

On behalf of the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers, we thank you for considering sponsorship and support of this simple, yet important, legislative item. I look forward to discussing further at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Kevin McKinley, Chair
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