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SB4 Ver. N

Sponsor Statement

During this time of recession in Alaska's economy, we are evaluating the balance between quality training programs and situations where government has hindered commerce and the ability for Alaskans to earn a living. Revisions to the barbers' and hairdressers' statutes provide several opportunities to correct these imbalances.

Under Title 8 licensed professionals regulated by the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers (Board) must work in a licensed shop. These students or practitioners are required by statute to conspicuously display their licenses, however the shop owner is not. This inequity has led to employees being fined because, unbeknownst to them, the shop owner's license had lapsed. SB4 requires the shop owner to conspicuously display the shop license, as well as the licenses of employees, renters and students.

By statute, an individual must obtain a shop certification from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) before they receive a license from the Board. The DEC is no longer providing certifications due to budget reductions. SB4 will allow a DEC standard self-certification process regulated through the Board.

Additionally, SB4 creates new license types. Currently, all barbers and hairdressers are held to the same standards. They must complete a total of 1,650 training hours or 2,000 apprenticeship hours regardless of the area of practice. This bill proposes to lower those hours in two areas and create new licenses for braiding and non-chemical barbering. The braiding license will require 35 hours of training and the non-chemical barbering license will require less than 1,650 hours with no practical training in chemical processes such as bleaching and perms. SB4 will also separate tattooing and permanent cosmetic coloring into two separate licenses, as well as expand the definition to include microblading and microneedling.

This bill provides more economic opportunity and less government-induced burden for hard working Alaskans by balancing training requirements to the specific demands and required skills of the trade. Lowering some of these barriers will welcome more workers into the industry, creating jobs and a stronger economy.

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