

Board of Cosmetology Licensing

Update to 2021 Evaluation Report

January 2023

Problems Identified

- **Complex Licensing Structure.** Certain aspects of Minnesota’s complex structure for licensing cosmetology practitioners and establishments do not contribute to the protection of public health, but do make licensing more expensive and burdensome for licensees. For example, individuals who want to perform services only on hair must complete the full training to become a licensed cosmetologist, which includes training on skin and nails as well as hair. Conversely, individuals who want to perform services only on skin or nails must complete training on those services only; they are not required to complete the full course of cosmetology training.
- **No Enforcement Mechanism.** In 2020, the Legislature authorized practitioners to perform makeup and hairstyling services without a license or permit if those practitioners took a one-time, four-hour course; but, the Board of Cosmetology (BCE) has no mechanism to enforce this requirement.
- **Inconsistent Regulation.** Although cosmetology practitioners may perform all, or nearly all, of the same services as barbers, the state uses two different boards to regulate these occupations, which has resulted in regulatory inconsistencies and may not be the most efficient use of state resources.

Changes Implemented

- **School Manager License Requirement Modified.** During the 2021 legislative session, the Legislature modified the requirements for a school manager license so that any practitioner licensed by BCE could become a school manager, not just cosmetologists.

Actions Needed

- **Modify the Licensing Structure.** The Legislature should work with BCE to simplify the cosmetology licensing structure and modify certain licensing requirements, such as: creating a hair-only specialty license, repealing the salon manager license, allowing instructor and school manager licenses to supersede operator licenses, changing the length and price of the temporary military license, and allowing BCE to issue a single type of salon license. Multiple bills were introduced during the 2022 legislative session that addressed some of these recommendations, but they did not pass. BCE reported to us that it plans to work with committee chairs to propose legislation during the 2023 session to address some issues with the licensing structure.
- **Develop Enforcement Mechanisms.** The Legislature should require unlicensed practitioners who take the required four-hour health and safety course in order to perform makeup application or hairstyling services to register with BCE. BCE should also post the registrations on its website, along with any enforcement actions it has taken against those practitioners who have not complied with state requirements.
- **Clarify Relationship with Barbering.** The Legislature should clarify the scope of practice for cosmetology practitioners and barbers, and consider whether it makes sense to continue regulating those occupations separately.