

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee members

This is testimony pertaining to HB2305, regarding changes to the statutes for the Kansas board of barbering.

Regarding the list of definitions, these changes are made to simplify terminology and define "senior status license".

The substantive changes the agency is requesting include:

1. Establishing a Senior Status license which allows a licensed barber who is at least 65 or older, has been licensed for at least 40 years but is no longer practicing to "maintain" their barber license. This license would have a one-time fee and would only need to be restored if/when that individual decided to re-enter the barber profession. This would allow that person to re-enter the workforce without penalty.
2. Outlining the examination procedures for licensure and lowers the passing score for the written Examination.
3. Differentiating the fees we charge to candidates for testing. This fee is applied towards computer-based testing and practical examination costs. This fee is insufficient to cover all costs of both examinations.

Our agency has had yearly inquiries regarding if we have a senior status license. The Board voted to create a senior status license to accommodate the requests of licensees.

Lowering the passing score for written examinations from 80% to 75%, enables us to be more in line with the national average. This change would also increase the current passing rate by more than 13% for the written examination.

Differentiating the costs for the written barber examination and the costs for the practical barber examination. Currently, a candidate pays \$100 for both examinations. From this, \$76 is paid to the testing company for the computer-based written examination. The remaining \$24 is paid toward the amount the agency spends on administering the practical examination. This remaining \$24 is not sufficient to cover the costs of practical examinations.

The Board already pays an estimated \$2,200 for each practical that is currently given. The Board plans to give approximately six (6) practical examinations each year which comes to an estimated \$13,200 per year for practical examinations.

Currently, the cost estimates for all Board examinations average \$24,600 per fiscal year. This estimate includes the \$13,200 for the practical examinations and \$11,400 for the written examinations. By

allowing a separate fee for each examination, this will allow the board to cover what is currently spent on testing for both the computer-based testing and administrating the practical examination.

This bill sets examination fee caps at \$150 for each examination (written and practical). This allows room for fee adjustment in the future if the costs of giving the examinations change due to an economical or vendor change. Each examination cost is to be set at \$100.

The importance of this Bill is imperative. Without differentiating the examination fees, our agency would need to restrict the number of examinations given each year; Just as the inability to lower the written test score to 75% would keep our State minimum passing score for the theory written examination higher than that of the national average. In turn this would slow the progress of licensure for new barbers and hinder the occupational profession of barbering within our State.

In closing we would like to reiterate that our agency is entirely fee-funded, and we strive to be resourceful with the funds we collect. We feel these changes are beneficial and not too far reaching. We appreciate your consideration in this matter.