

September 18, 2013

To: Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
From: Senator Glenn Grothman
Re: Senate Bill 237

Last session Representative Kooyenga and I drafted legislation that separated the professions of barbering and cosmetology. This bill passed both houses and was signed by Governor Walker as 2011 Act 190. This legislation was a great benefit to barber shops that were unable to attract new people into the profession because of the onerous education requirements.

Senate Bill 237 includes suggestions from stakeholders and the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) to eliminate some of the hurdles of entering the barbering profession that were inadvertently missed in last session's bill.

This legislation simplifies the definition of barbering by removing most chemical processes from the definition. It also gives barbering students more flexibility to determine the length of their schooling by eliminating the requirement that classroom hours be spread out over ten months and by removing the requirement that instruction may not exceed eight hours in one day or forty-eight hours in one week. Finally, the bill lowers the number of hours a barbering apprentice must complete from 4,000 to 2,000.

This pro-jobs legislation will open new avenues for individuals to obtain their education requirements in order to be licensed to enter the barbering profession.



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**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Greg Gasper, Assistant Deputy Secretary
Department of Safety and Professional Services
September 18, 2013**

Chairperson Vukmir and committee members, on behalf of Secretary Dave Ross, thank you for taking up Senate Bill 237 and for the opportunity to appear before you today.

As you know, 2011 Wisconsin Act 190 separated the professions of barbering and cosmetology and transferred regulatory authority over barbers from the Barbering and Cosmetology Examining Board to the Department of Safety and Professional Services. When Act 190 became effective on July 1, 2012, the department began to develop, in partnership with the Barbering Advisory Committee, emergency and permanent rules needed for enactment of this law. This six-member Committee consists of a mix of barbers and barbering instructors, as well as a representative from the Department of Workforce Development Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards.

In the process of developing the rules, a few things came to light that department staff identified as having the potential to make the barbering license easier to attain and administer without jeopardizing public health and safety. These items were rolled into SB 237:

- First, to accommodate a smaller-scale scope of practice for barbers, Act 190 affected a 1,000-classroom hour course of instruction in barbering (which was a change from the 1,800 required under the previous combined barbering and cosmetology license). However, the law still requires the 1,000 classroom hours to be spread over no fewer than ten months. SB 237 eliminates this requirement so prospective licensees can finish their education sooner.
- Related to the first item, today, a barbering or cosmetology education course offered by a school may not exceed eight hours in length in one day or 48 hours in one week. This inflexibility can lead to difficulty for students, especially those who need to make up missed class time or who travel long distances to get to their school. SB 237 removes this restraint, providing flexibility for schools and students alike.
- Third, while Act 190 reduced the requirement for classroom education hours to accommodate a more limited barbering scope of practice, it did not reduce the hours required for a barbering apprenticeship. SB 237 addresses that detail, lowering required apprenticeship hours from 3,712 practical hours and 288 classroom hours to 1,712 and 288.
- Finally, the bill would remove certain chemically-related practices from the scope of the practice of barbering in Wisconsin. Providing these services would still be perfectly legal

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under the law, but the practitioner would simply have to obtain a cosmetology license in order to perform them. The objective of this provision is to make the barbering scope of practice more closely reflect what we believe is happening in the marketplace.

Barbering is a gateway profession where someone can get into the business at the ground level and make a good living. SB 237 makes it a little bit easier to become a barber while not jeopardizing the health and safety of the public, and I encourage your support.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today, and I would be happy to take any questions at this time.