

**SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
FISCAL NOTE**

BILL NO. House Bill 1558

PRINTER'S NO. 4073

AMOUNT

\$386,000 Annually

FUND

Professional Licensure Augmentation Account

DATE INTRODUCED

June 19, 2013

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative O'Neill

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

House Bill 1558 amends the Cosmetology law (Act 86 of 1933) to allow for licensure testing prior to graduating from cosmetology school. The written licensure exam will now consolidate both the theoretical and procedural skill components into one test. Students pursuing the following licenses may take their written licensure test after the specified number of hours of coursework is completed:

- Cosmetology license: 900 hours of the 1,250 required hours;
- License to teach cosmetology, natural hair braiding, nail technology or esthetics: 400 hours of the 500 required hours;
- Limited license: 250 hours of the 300 required hours;
- Nail Technician license: 150 hours of the 200 required hours; and
- Natural Hair Braiding license: 250 hours of the 300 required hours.

The license will only be issued upon successful completion of the written exam as well as the completion of the total required number of instructional hours.

The bill also amends the Cosmetology law to allow licensed massage therapists to practice massage therapy within the approved premises of licensed cosmetology or esthetician salons, provided they meet specified criteria.

The following conditions must be met:

- 1) The massage therapy licensee is the owner or is an employee of the salon, and is not an independent contractor;
- 2) The massage therapists practices in accordance with this act and the Massage Therapy law; and
- 3) The salon owner provides an appropriate level of privacy for clients as specified in the act.

The massage therapy licensee is subject to inspection by the Cosmetology Board and the Board of Massage Therapy. Violators of this act or the Massage Therapy law are subject to discipline by the licensee's applicable licensing Board.

Within 18 months of the effective date of this act's section, the state Board of Cosmetology and the State Board of Massage Therapy shall jointly promulgate final regulations to implement the provisions of this section.

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The act shall take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Minimal costs could result from the need for the Board to consolidate the theoretical and procedural skill questions into one written exam but savings could also result from the consolidation of the two components into one test.

The Department of State has estimated that the State Board of Massage Therapy could experience new inspection costs of about \$386,000 annually. This estimate is based on the assumption that about half (8,124) of the current 16,248 licensed cosmetology and esthetician salons would seek to provide massage therapy as allowed by this act. The Department of State does not think it is unreasonable to assume that the majority of the anticipated participating facilities will be inspected within one year, with the goal to reach all facilities within a biennial cycle. The Department stated the Board is expected to increase the biennial registration fee paid by massage therapists to offset any increased inspection costs.