



KENTUCKY STATE BOARD OF HAIRDRESSERS AND COSMETOLOGISTS

Matthew G. Bevin
Governor

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Beni Sue Parsons
Administrator

MEMORANDUM

TO: Licensed Cosmetology Schools in the Commonwealth of Kentucky
FROM: Kentucky Board of Hairdressers and Cosmetologists
RE: Implementation of HB 271
DATE: May 19, 2017

As you are likely aware, House Bill 271 ("HB 271") was enacted by the Kentucky General Assembly during the most recent legislative session to modernize and streamline Kentucky's cosmetology education program and align it with the requirements of neighboring states through the reduction of required instructional hours. The Kentucky Board of Hairdressers and Cosmetologists ("Board") has become aware that there is some confusion as to how HB 271 will impact the requirements for students seeking to take the apprentice cosmetology licensure examination. This memorandum is intended to explain the effects of HB 271 on existing enrolled cosmetology students, new cosmetology students and licensed cosmetology schools. HB 271 does not apply on a retroactive basis, nor does it have an emergency clause making it effective immediately upon signature by the Governor. Accordingly, HB 271 will not become law until June 29, 2017. You are encouraged to post this memorandum in a prominent location at your school.

Students Enrolled in a Cosmetology Program Prior to June 29, 2017

HB 271 has no effect upon the existing education and financial aid agreements entered into between licensed cosmetology schools and their students. All students currently enrolled or enrolling in a cosmetology program provided by a cosmetology school licensed by the Board prior to June 29, 2017 will remain bound by the education and financial loan agreements they have previously entered into with their licensed school. As such, students who are currently enrolled or enroll in a cosmetology program prior to June 29, 2017 will still be required to complete the current 1,800 hour instructional program that is currently in effect in order to graduate, in addition to completing all other requirements, paying required fees and taking the

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apprentice cosmetologist licensure examination. Importantly, HB 271 does *not* reduce the number of instructional hours required for students who enrolled in a licensed cosmetology program prior to June 29, 2017, nor does it impair any existing lawfully-binding contractual agreements between a school and a student. Any student having a question about their specific circumstances should contact their school to discuss their options with respect to their contractual obligations. The bottom line is that the requirements to obtain an apprentice cosmetology license have not changed.

Students Enrolling in a Cosmetology Program On or After June 29, 2017

Any student who enrolls in a cosmetology program provided by a licensed cosmetology school on or after June 29, 2017 will be required to complete a 1,500 hour instructional program in order to graduate and take the apprentice cosmetology licensure examination in accordance with the new law. The reduction in the instructional program from 1,800 hours to 1,500 hours is the only change in the law. All other requirements to obtain an apprentice cosmetology license shall continue to apply.

Students Graduating from a Cosmetology School Outside of Kentucky

Beginning on June 29, 2017 and thereafter, a cosmetology student who has graduated from a cosmetology school licensed in a state other than Kentucky and who has completed at least 1,500 or more hours of instruction may take the apprentice cosmetology licensure examination. All other requirements to obtain an apprentice cosmetology license shall continue to apply.

Cosmetology Schools Licensure Renewals

Beginning on June 29, 2017 and thereafter, every cosmetology school in Kentucky shall provide the Board with a prescribed course of instruction/curriculum of not less than 1,500 hours as a prerequisite to renewing its license. Each school with an existing license shall use reasonable efforts to be able to offer a 1,500 hour instructional program as of June 29, 2017. All other requirements to obtain or renew a cosmetology school license shall continue to apply.