



**Florida Association of Cosmetology and  
Technical Schools**

**F.A.C.T.S.**

Representing Florida's Beauty Schools

In Opposition to

SB 1640 and HB 27

**SB 1640 and HB 27 (the “Bills”)** propose to reduce the number of school hours required for Barbers, Full Specialist, Skin Care and Nail Specialists. If implemented, this reduction in program hours will result in unintended harm to students and the public. The following talking points are being provided to you so that you can, in turn, provide legislators and other interested parties with accurate information as to the potential consequences this legislation will have, if implemented, on these beauty school programs.

The proposed reduction in hours **will not eliminate barriers to entry** into these cosmetology fields, as argued. They will, in fact, **increase** the barriers and place the public at greater risk of injury from **under-trained individuals**.

## **Barber Program**

### **Proposed Reduction from 1200 hours to 600 Hours with the ability to test at 325 Hours**

- ***Lack of License Mobility*** : The national average for the Barber Program is **1433 hours**. If implemented, these Bills will reduce the number of school hours required for Barbers in Florida to 600 – **the lowest requirement of any state in the United States**. While that might be a good thing for licensed barbers entering the State of Florida, it severely restricts the ability of Florida trained Barbers to relocate to any other State. Many military Veterans and active military family members train in a Florida Barber Program and then relocate out of Florida, either for military or personal reasons. With only 600 hours of schooling, that graduate would be required to return to school to be licensed in any other State in the Union.
- ***Loss of Financial Aid***: The reduction from 1200 to 600 Hours, as proposed by the Bills, will result in the Barber student not qualifying for **\$5,080 in Federal Pell Grant (Free Money)**. Many Barber students are from lower socio-economic environments and are in need of grant money to pay for their education and living expenses while in school. Further, if a Barber student is allowed and elects to take the exam at 325 hours, that student is **NOT ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL PELL GRANT MONEY, A LOSS OF \$8,127**.
- ***Increased Failure Rate on State Licensing Exam***: The Florida State Board licensing examination for Barbers tests Safety and Sanitation (30%), Florida Barber Laws and Rules (25%), Hair Cutting (15%), Chemical Procedures (10%), Hair Structure and Chemistry 10%, Shaving (5%) and Shampooing (5%). It is impossible to adequately cover all of this subject matter in 600 course hours. The current fail rate, after the completion of 1200 hours of Barbering School is, on average, 17.5%. It is projected that 90% of students would fail the licensing exam after completing a 600 hour course, with a 100% fail rate if tested at the 325 hour mark. Not being licensed is an undeniable barrier to employment.

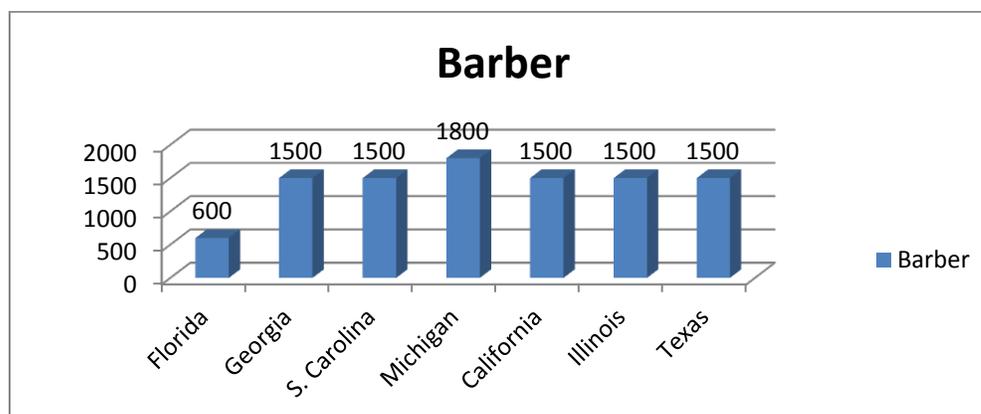
- **Employers Will Not Hire Under-trained Individuals :** The salon industry has wonderful opportunities for graduates from the Barber Program. However, leaders of the major salon chains have said “While the idea of removing barriers to employment opportunities is a noble pursuit, the reduction in these hours will have the unintended consequence of doing exactly the opposite - under-preparing individuals for a career/occupation in which they will be unemployable.” (Source: Dan Washburn Owner 32 great Clips Salons Central Florida)

Employers do not and will not have the motivation, systems, capabilities or resources to provide the missing training to these under-trained individuals **before** that Barber begins generating revenue for that employer. It is the school’s job to train; it is the employer’s job to implement that training. The risk of hiring under-trained Barbers lacking basic safety and technical skills is a huge financial and liability burden for potential employers, one that they will not accept. Salon chains, such as Great Clips, Supercuts, Haircuttery and Sports Clips which provide first time employment opportunities for the majority of recent graduates, already face huge challenges when hiring qualified individuals from the 1200 hour program. Producing unqualified, undertrained individuals will further exasperate the challenge and turn it into a crisis.

Employers will be motivated to hire individuals who were trained out of state with more hours of training, rather than Florida trained Barbers, which defeats the very purpose of these Bills.

- **Safety and Sanitation:** Legislators appear to misunderstand the complexity of training necessary to ensure safety and sanitation. It takes significantly more than 600 hours to adequately educate (course work) and train (practical experience) a Barber student about the techniques and safety measures necessary to ensure public safety. For example, Barber students must be learn the anatomy of the face and neck and then be skilled in the use of a straight razor. Barber students must be educated to properly diagnose the numerous skin and scalp diseases they will encounter and then trained as to the handling of those diseases while practicing their craft.

- **A Comparative Look with Proposed 600 Hours**



## **Full Specialist, Skin and Nail Specialist**

**Proposed Reduction for Full Specialist from 500 Hours to 300 Hours**

**Proposed Reduction for Skin Care Specialist from 260 Hours to 165 Hours**

**Proposed Reduction for Nails Specialist from 240 Hours to 150 Hours**

- ***Loss of Financial Aid:*** The reduction from 600 to 300 Hours for the Full Specialist Program as proposed by the Bills, will result in the student **losing \$4,063 in Pell Grants. ( Free Money)** Many of these students are from lower socio-economic environments and are in need of grant money to pay for their education and living expenses while in school. Without receiving a Pell Grant students will be unable to attend school.
- ***Employers will not Hire Under-trained Individuals:*** Graduates from all of these programs provide services to the hundreds of Salons and Spas in Florida, Medical Practices, as well as Florida's extensive Hotel and Cruise Line industries. As an example, due to the increased consumer demand for Skin Care, a significant number of Plastic Surgeons and Dermatologists have added the Skin Care Specialist to their practices to meet that demand. Such Professionals will not compromise their practice standards by hiring under-trained Skin Care Specialists.

Employers of graduates from all of these programs do not and will not have the motivation, systems, capabilities or resources to provide the missing training to these under-trained individuals **before** that employee begins generating revenue for the employer. It is the school's job to train; it is the employer's job to implement that training. Employers will be motivated to hire individuals who were trained out of state with more hours of training, rather than Florida trained Specialists, which defeats the very purpose of these Bills.

- ***Safety and Sanitation:*** Legislators appear to misunderstand the complexity of training necessary to ensure safety and sanitation. It takes significantly more than the reduced hours as proposed in the Bills to adequately educate (course work) and train (practical experience) these Specialty Students about the techniques and safety measures necessary to ensure public safety. For example, Skin Care Specialists must learn about the Anatomy and Physiology of the skin, as well as the Disorders and Diseases of the Skin. They must apply this knowledge to assess a client's needs and then use techniques, products and machines to safely perform the required services. That education and training cannot be perfected in 165 hours as proposed by the Bills.

The same argument can be made for the Nail Specialist. They must become educated in the Anatomy of both the hands and feet, and then be skilled at using sharp instruments to safely perform Manicures and Pedicures. That education and training cannot be perfected in 150 hours as proposed by the Bills.

- Florida Tourism:** According to [www.visitflorida.org](http://www.visitflorida.org), 118 million tourists visited Florida in 2017. These tourists are placed at an increased and significant risk of harm if services are rendered by under-trained Specialists. Tourists expect a level of education and skill comparative to that being provided by Specialists in their home state. If the service is not up to the tourists' expectations, these 118 million visitors will be deterred from seeking these beauty services in Florida. These Bills as proposed will result in significant harm to the tourists and the corresponding loss in business to the employers.

**A Comparative Look with Proposed Hours Skin and Nails Specialists**

