

To All Concerned Parties,

We are writing to address a growing concern within the cosmetology industry regarding the number of hours required to obtain a cosmetology license in the state of New Hampshire. Currently, the required number of hours is 1500. This threshold, in comparison to other states, appears excessive and in need of revision.

There are several reasons why a reduction in hours is not only necessary but also beneficial for both students and the industry as a whole:

1. ****National Comparison****

Many states across the U.S. have successfully reduced the number of hours required for cosmetology licensing without sacrificing the quality of education or skill level. For instance, states like New York, Texas, and Florida have hour requirements ranging from 1,000 to 1,200, yet they continue to produce highly competent professionals. New Hampshire's higher hour requirement creates an unnecessary burden on students, placing our state at a disadvantage in comparison to other regions.

2. ****Financial Burden on Students****

The longer the educational program, the more costly it becomes. Cosmetology students often struggle to finance their education, and higher hours lead to increased tuition costs and living expenses while attending school. Reducing the required hours will help alleviate this financial strain, making the field more accessible to individuals from diverse economic backgrounds who are passionate about pursuing cosmetology as a career.

3. ****Barriers to Entry****

The current hour requirements act as a barrier to entry for many potential students. Aspiring cosmetologists may find themselves deterred by the length and cost of the programs, leading them to pursue careers in other fields or forgo formal training altogether. A reduction in hours would open up the industry to a larger pool of talent, benefiting salons, spas, and the wider beauty industry in New Hampshire.

4. ****Industry Demand and Employment****

There is a growing demand for licensed cosmetologists, but the existing hour requirement limits the rate at which new professionals can enter the workforce. Reducing the hours would allow students to complete their education and licensing faster, addressing this demand and helping the state's economy by supporting local businesses that rely on cosmetology services.

5. **Focus on Practical Skills**

It is essential to emphasize that reducing hours does not equate to lowering educational standards. By streamlining cosmetology programs, schools can focus more effectively on the practical, hands-on skills that are essential to success in the industry. Graduates would still receive high-quality training that meets state and industry standards but in a more efficient and accessible manner.

In conclusion, reducing the required cosmetology hours in New Hampshire would not only align our state with national trends but would also benefit students, schools, and the industry as a whole. This adjustment would reduce financial burdens, remove barriers to entry, and address workforce demand, all while maintaining the high level of professional competency that is expected of licensed cosmetologists.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your thoughtful consideration of these points and am confident that a reduction in hours will greatly benefit the future of cosmetology in New Hampshire.