



2021 Legislative Concept Proposal LC 594 - Curriculum Development for Cosmetology Schools

Problem

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission is responsible for approving curricular standards for cosmetology schools. Of all areas of student in Oregon, cosmetology is the only area over which HECC exercises curricular oversight, and does so despite the existence of the Board of Cosmetology.

Background

HECC's Private Career Schools Unit has managed these curriculum rules since it was transferred from the Oregon Department of Education. However, the PCS unit has no staff with relevant expertise in the teaching or training of barbers, hairdressers, estheticians, or nail technicians. It relies upon the voluntary assistance of practitioners within the field to maintain and interpret these rules.

HECC PCS manages no other field of study or professional curricular standards. These fields, such as massage, tattoo artistry, trucking, and other professions have their educational standards managed by an appropriate licensure board (e.g. Oregon Board of Massage Therapists, Oregon Tax Board, etc.); or where no relevant board or authority exists, are managed by the schools themselves in voluntary associations.

The Board of Cosmetology meets under the authority of the Oregon Health Authority's Health Licensing Office. In addition, HLO has recently taken on the regulation of the "Advanced Esthetics," a relatively new discipline. The Board of Cosmetology creates, and HLO administers, all relevant statewide licensing exams for which the schools and their curriculum prepare cosmetology and barbering students.

Proposed Solution

Repeal and/or amend portions of 345.400-450. Transfer these authorities and responsibilities to HLO and the Board of Cosmetology.

HECC should retain the authority to license cosmetology and barbering schools as schools to make sure they meet the state minimum standards for student safety, teacher qualification, consumer protection, and financial responsibility as currently outlined in statute (ORS 345, generally) and rule (OAR 715-045, generally). In particular, HECC should maintain its consumer and student protection role in the receipt and investigation of student complaints against schools, where a school's possible violation of standards under ORS 345 or OAR 715-045 is at issue.