

HB 172 – An ACT relating to barbering

The ask. To adjust the number of months' experience teaching in a barber school that is required to operate a school of barbering **from 36 to 12 months** - which includes administrative experience.

***The Problem**

- The law was changed in 2016 when a couple of barber schools were opened that should not have been opened. Prior to 2016, the required experience was 12 months.
- The change was made to make it more difficult to open a school without seasoned professional instructors.

***The Result**

- The pipeline of instructors was effectively blocked.
- Since 2018, only three instructors have achieved the required three years of instructing in a barber school in order to operate one.
- Three schools: in Albany, Ashland and Bowling Green have closed because instructors with three-years teaching experience could not be located to comply with licensure for the school.
- Approximately 40 students were impacted.

***The Present**

- Issues exist with barber schools in Harrodsburg, Owensboro, and Somerset that could face closure, if we are not able to remedy this law.
- There has been interest in opening schools in Ashland, Paducah, and Pikeville but there is no available supply of instructors, and no way to prepare them.
- The instructors for Northern Kentucky drive from Lexington or Louisville, and the instructor in Harrodsburg drives from Corbin (each approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes).

***Timeline to Open/Own/Operate a Barber School**

- Meet age and education minimum to attend Barber School
 - 17.5 years old with high school diploma or equivalent.
- Earn an Apprentice License
 - Completion of 1500 hours (approx. 9-10 months)
 - Pass Apprentice Exam both written and practical - 75% or above on both.
- Earn Barber License
 - Complete 6-9 months apprenticeship
 - Pass Barber Exam (aka Master Barber – eligible to manage/own a shop) - 75% or above.
- Earn Student Instructor License
 - Requires 18 months active in a shop as a licensed barber or 400 hours in a school.
 - Pass written/practical and oral exams – 80% or above per exam.
- Complete three (3) years of instructor experience in a barber school with administrative experience. Asking to adjust instructor experience **from three (3) years to one (1)**.
- Open/Own/Operate a Barber School.

***Efforts by the Kentucky Board of Barbering**

- Reduced entry barriers with regulation changes in 2022.
- Reduced the timeline by eight (8) months
- Reduced fees for instructor exams from \$250 per exam to \$100.

*Information Provided by the Kentucky Board of Barbering