* **Representative** **Mike Clines** is sponsoringHB 172, and collaborating with **Mr. Jason Crockett, Chairman** of the **KY Board of Barbering** and **Mr. Mason McNulty, Administrator** for the **KY Board of Barbering.**
* They are **asking that the 36 months to acquire a barber instructor’s license be adjusted to 12 months** –a changeto KRS 317.450 Barbers Fees and qualifications for licenses and permits

Some background

* This exact bill was **passed through the Senate** (SB 58 – An ACT relating to barbering) during the **2022** **session** with a vote of 34-0-4. Senate did not concur with House Committee Substitute (1) and Committee Amendment (1-title)received in House.
* Currently, it’s approximately a three-year process to become a licensed barber (aka Master Barber). To earn an instructor’s license **to own/open/operate a school of barbering**, a Master Barber must then teach in a school of barbering for 36 months (another 3 years). In total, **it is a six-year program**
* The Ky Board of Barbering is confident it can make the master barbers well-qualified instructors within those 12 months – making it a **four-year program**
* Why the change?
  1. Three barber schools, one in **Ashland**, one in **Albany** and one in **Bowling Green**, have **closed** due to not having instructors - impacting approximately **40 students**.
  2. An **instructor drives** 90 minutes each way from **Corbin** to **Harrodsburg**. The instructors for **northern KY** drive from **Lexington** and **Louisville**.
  3. The **far ends of the state are underrepresented**, and the Board would like the opportunity to cultivate instructors for those areas. Currently, there is an **interest in opening a barber school** in **Ashland**, **Paducah**, and **Pikeville**.
  4. This change addresses a **workforce development issue** and helps confront the declining number of barber instructors and barber schools throughout the State.
* What has the **KY Board of Barbering done to help**?
  1. In 2022 eased entry barriers with regulation changes.
  2. Condensed the barber license timeline by eight (8) months.
  3. Reduced exam fees from $250 per exam to $100 for each.
* They are requesting that the Senate join the House and KY Board of Barbering to **address this workforce development issue**. They are **asking that the 36 months to acquire a barber instructor’s license be adjusted to 12 months**.