

**CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD  
OF  
BARBERING AND COSMETOLOGY**

**LEGISLATION AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 20, 2024**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Reese Isbell, Chair  
Colette Kavanaugh  
Megan Ellis

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

Kristy Underwood, Executive Officer  
Carrie Harris, Deputy Executive Officer  
Sabina Knight, Board Legal Representative  
Allison Lee, Board Project Manager  
Natalie Mitchell, Board Analyst

**1. AGENDA ITEM #1: CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

Reese Isbell, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

**2. AGENDA ITEM #2: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION REGARDING PROPOSED BILLS**

Kristy Underwood provided an update on two bills, SB 992 authored by Senator Bradford and AB 2166 from Senator Weber. Both bills aim to require schools to incorporate textured hair curriculum, impacting cosmetologists, hair stylists, and barbering licenses. The proposed legislation aligns with the Crown Act, a law passed in New York in 2023 that advocates for a respectful and inclusive environment for natural hair, aiming to prevent discrimination. The fiscal impact on the board is minimal, as it mainly involves informing schools, and many already teach and test on such content. A letter of support, if amended, was received from the Professional Beauty Federation and will be provided at the upcoming board meeting.

Reese Isbell inquired about the differences between the current bills and SB 188, which Governor Newsom signed a few years ago to amend the education code and prohibit discrimination based on hair textures for students. Kristy Underwood clarified that SB 188 was California's initial step in implementing the Crown Act, focusing on preventing discrimination in educational institutions against students with diverse hair textures. She highlighted the emphasis on student athletes facing restrictions on certain hairstyles. The new legislation under discussion aims to expand curriculum requirements for barbering and cosmetology schools. Reese Isbell commented that one of these bills was part of the reparations package proposed by the California Reparations Task Force, seeking an update on related developments, to which Ms. Underwood responded that they have not received any further information.

Collette Kavanaugh inquired about the specific hour requirement for schools to teach textured hair. She questioned whether it would be integrated into the existing curriculum or if it would constitute a separate set of hours. Kristy Underwood explained that it would be a new added

component. With the implementation of SB 803, which reduced overall teaching hours, the bills mandate that within the designated hours for various aspects like hair styling and chemical services, schools must also include instruction on textured hair curriculum.

**Motion:** Collette Kavanaugh motioned to recommend to the full board to take a support position for Senate Bill 992 and Assembly Bill AB 2166. Megan Ellis seconded the motion.

**Public Comment:** Fred Jones from the Professional Beauty Federation clarified the federation's position on Senate Bill 992 and Assembly Bill AB 2166. He stated that the federation supports the bills if amended, a position different from outright opposition unless amended. Mr. Jones noted concerns about the impact of SB 803, a law passed two years ago, which significantly reduced the required hours for obtaining hair styling licenses in barbering and cosmetology from 1600 and 1500 hours to 1000 hours. He highlighted ongoing efforts to compile data illustrating how this reduction in hours affects students' ability to pass the licensing exams and be adequately prepared for successful careers in the beauty industry. The federation's position is to urge the legislature to reconsider the existing thousand-hour requirement for hair-related licenses before introducing new curricular mandates. They recommend an increase in the number of hours, citing the need to accommodate not only the proposed textured hair curriculum but also to prepare for future mandates that may arise from policymakers.

Motion to approve the recommendation to the full board to take a support position for Senate Bill 992 and Assembly Bill AB 2166 carried: 3 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstain, per the following roll call vote:

Committee Members voted "Yes": Reese Isbell, Megan Ellis, and Colette Kavanaugh

### **3. AGENDA ITEM #3: PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Fred Jones from the Professional Beauty Federation informed the committee about two upcoming bills. The first bill pertains exclusively to the manicuring sector and arises due to the expiration of the Assembly Bill 5 exemption for manicurists last year. The legislation necessitates further education and outreach to the manicuring industry, involving the Board in these efforts. Additionally, Mr. Jones mentioned another bill focusing on hairstyling services. This bill seeks to exempt certain hairstyling services from licensing and regulatory oversight, a matter of concern for the federation.

Reese Isbell noted that several bills were introduced after the agenda had been published. These bills, including some discussed in the current meeting, will be addressed at the upcoming board meeting.

### **4. AGENDA ITEM #4: ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:14 a.m.