

**SUBJECT:** Adding services using a safety razor under cosmetology definition

**COMMITTEE:** Licensing and Administrative Procedures — committee substitute recommended

**VOTE:** 8 ayes — Hamilton, Quintanilla, Driver, Geren, Gutierrez, Harless, Kuempel, Menendez

0 nays

1 absent — Thompson

**WITNESSES:** For — Joseph Grandin; (*Registered, but did not testify:* David D. Anderson, Ogle Schools; Jerry Valdez, Career Colleges and Schools of Texas)

Against — Jimmy Johnson; Joe Shirley

On — Vikrant Reddy, Texas Public Policy Foundation; (*Registered, but did not testify:* William Kuntz, Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation)

**BACKGROUND:** Occupations Code, Section 1602.002, defines the practices included in the meaning of “cosmetology.”

**DIGEST:** CSHB 1793 would amend the Occupations Code to add shaving a person’s neck and treating a person’s beard or mustache with a safety razor to the services covered under the definition of “cosmetology.”

The bill would take effect September 1, 2011.

**SUPPORTERS SAY:** Cosmetologists are allowed to shave certain areas, such as above the earlobe, but are not allowed to shave a customer’s face and neck as barbers are. Cosmetologists are trained professionals who are capable of using safety razors in their work.

HB 1793 is necessary for the expansion of this industry in Texas. Shop owners need a larger pool of people to hire from to fulfill the demand for shaving services.

OPPONENTS  
SAY:

HB 1793 poses a safety risk because it would not define what a safety razor is. Many tools on the market are called safety razors but are actually unsafe and can injure customers. Also, if cosmetologists are not trained properly, they could injure customers.

This bill would not solve the real problem that there are not enough barbers in Texas. More barbers need to be recruited into the industry for Texas businesses to hire.