

SUBJECT: Requiring sexual assault, domestic violence training for cosmetologists

COMMITTEE: Licensing and Administrative Procedures — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 11 ayes — S. Thompson, Kuempel, Darby, Ellzey, Fierro, Geren, Goldman, Guillen, Hernandez, Huberty, Pacheco

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jo Cassandra Cuevas, Operation Texas Shield; Krista Del Gallo, Texas Council on Family Violence; Thomas Parkinson)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Brian Francis, Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation)

BACKGROUND: Occupations Code sec. 1602.354 requires the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation by rule to recognize, prepare, or administer continuing education programs for the practice of cosmetology. The programs are required to include information on human trafficking, including methods for recognizing and assisting potential victims. Participation in these programs is mandatory for all cosmetology license renewals.

DIGEST: HB 404 would require continuing education programs for cosmetology license holders to include information on sexual assault and domestic violence awareness. The Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation would have to adopt rules to implement the bill by March 1, 2022. The rules would apply only to a continuing education program provided on or after September 1, 2022.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.

**SUPPORTERS  
SAY:**

HB 404 would provide greater access to resources for individuals experiencing sexual violence by requiring cosmetologists to complete training on domestic violence and sexual assault awareness before renewing a cosmetology license. Requiring this training would allow cosmetologists to spot the warning signs of domestic violence and sexual assault and direct potential victims to help. Cosmetologists often are the only people whom a victim of domestic violence can visit without their abuser present. This puts cosmetologists in a unique position to help victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in Texas.

The bill would not burden cosmetologists because it would not require them to complete an additional continuing education course. HB 404 simply expands the scope of existing continuing education courses to include sexual assault and domestic violence awareness training.

**CRITICS  
SAY:**

HB 404 unnecessarily would burden cosmetology license holders seeking to renew their licenses with training unrelated to cosmetology.