



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2017 Wisconsin Act 81
[2017 Senate Bill 108]

**Barbering and Cosmetology
Licensure**

2017 Wisconsin Act 81 (“the Act”) makes changes to licensure for barbering, cosmetology, aesthetics, electrology, and manicuring with regard to requirements for continuing education (CE) and reciprocal licensure.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Act eliminates the authority of the Cosmetology Examining Board (“the Board”) and the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DPS) to impose CE requirements as a condition of license renewal for licensed barbers, cosmetologists, aestheticians, electrologists, and manicurists. In addition, the Act requires DPS to send to each licensee, by electronic mail at the time notice of license renewal is given, a digest that describes changes to statutes and rules that affect the practice of barbering, cosmetology, aesthetics, manicuring, or electrology. DPS must also make the digest available on its Internet site. A license for barbering, cosmetology, aesthetics, electrology, or manicuring may not be renewed unless the person certifies that he or she has reviewed the current digest.

The Act retains the Board’s and DPS’ authority to impose CE requirements on a licensee as a part of the disciplinary process to ensure competency.

RECIPROCAL LICENSURE

Prior law allowed the Board to issue a license to practice cosmetology, aesthetics, electrology, or manicuring, and allowed DPS to issue a license to practice barbering, to an applicant who was licensed in another state or territory of the United States or in another country to perform services that are substantially the same as those performed by licensees in this state if either of the following applied:

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.

- The applicant had at least 4,000 hours of experience in licensed practice, had never been disciplined by the licensing authority of another jurisdiction, and was not a party to a proceeding before the licensing agency in which it was alleged that the applicant was negligent in the licensed practice or violated the law relating to the licensed practice.
- The applicant met the requirements established in a reciprocal agreement between the Board or DSPS and the licensing authority in the state where the applicant was licensed.

The Act eliminates the requirement that an applicant have at least 4,000 hours of experience in licensed practice in order to receive a reciprocal license under the first qualification, described above, and instead requires that an applicant complete a one-hour course educating the applicant on statutes and rules that apply to the practice of barbering, cosmetology, aesthetics, electrology, or manicuring. Thus, under the Act, the Board or DSPS may issue a reciprocal license if the applicant completes the one-hour course, has never been disciplined by the licensing authority of another jurisdiction, and is not a party to a proceeding before the licensing agency.

INITIAL APPLICABILITY

The Act first applies to an application for licensure received on November 29, 2017.

Effective date: November 29, 2017

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