

HOUSE No. 285

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Mindy Domb

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to establish a pilot program to build the licensed barbering workforce.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>1/19/2023</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>1/25/2023</i>
<i>Bud L. Williams</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>	<i>2/3/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 285

By Representative Domb of Amherst, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 285) of Mindy Domb, Lindsay N. Sabadosa and Bud L. Williams relative to an alternative method for training and licensing of barbers. Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act to establish a pilot program to build the licensed barbering workforce.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) As used in this act, the following words shall have the following
2 meanings, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:-

3 “Board”, board of registration of cosmetology and barbering, established in section 42 of
4 chapter 13 of the General laws,

5 “Licensed barber shops”, barber shops which have received a license from the
6 commonwealth, having met existing licensure criteria.

7 “Pilot barber schools”, a school which will be allowed in an established licensed small
8 barber shop during non-commercial hours. The pilot school license shall allow the barber shop to
9 advertise the availability of a barber school on the premises, shall be granted to allow
10 adjustments and reductions to class enrollment and other size restrictions. Adjustments shall be
11 based on the number of chairs and sinks available in the licensed pilot barber shop classroom.

12 “Pilot in-shop barber instructor license eligibility”, a barber instructor having a barber
13 license or assistant barber license and 2 years of full-time experience as a barber or assistant
14 barber instructor in order to be eligible for an instructor license.

15 (b) The board of registration of cosmetology and barbering, pursuant to section 42 of
16 chapter 13 of the General laws, shall establish a 4 year pilot program to allow for in-shop barber
17 instruction. The pilot program shall:

18 (i) enlist up to 5 licensed barbers and their barber shops in geographically diverse areas in
19 the commonwealth to participate;

20 (ii) develop eligibility criteria for a pilot in-shop barber school license, an application and
21 a pilot program instructor license;

22 (iii) assess the performance of students in the pilot program and determine if the pilot
23 program is successful in increasing the number of licensed barbers across the commonwealth;

24 (iv) comply with the commonwealth’s 1,000 hour guidelines, while occurring in an
25 alternative setting; and

26 (v) allow training to occur in a licensed barber shop during the barber shop’s closed hours
27 and delivered by an experienced and licensed barber, who will access a special pilot barber
28 instructor license as part of this program.

29 (c) In implementing the pilot program, the board shall:

30 (i) ensure that once each barber is licensed as a pilot in-shop instructor, they have access
31 to all existing training materials and exam questions, the list of current workbooks used to
32 prepare students for the written exam and a breakdown of hours needed for each section of the

33 1,000 hour training program currently used to meet the commonwealth's existing barbering
34 license process;

35 (ii) ensure that the pilot program instruction takes place in a traditional licensed barber
36 shop during its closed hours;

37 (iii) create a path to instructor licensing for those meeting the experience requirements,
38 independent from having worked in or having recently been hired by, a current barber school;

39 (iv) establish criteria for pilot program participation which incorporates barber interest,
40 the ability to meet the experience criteria for an instructor's license, and ability to comply with
41 guidelines needed for an in-shop barber school;

42 (v) post the pilot program's guidelines and the curriculum syllabus online to make sure
43 that all prospective participants can review this information before applying to participate;

44 (vi) review syllabi submitted by the licensed in-shop barber instructor for approval to
45 make sure it meets mandatory standards;

46 (vii) provide a physical inspection of the specific space prior to the commencement of
47 instruction;

48 (viii) assure that all rules regarding haircuts, including safety, oversight and pricing will
49 remain the same as outlined for traditional barber schools in the commonwealth; and

50 (ix) provide students who complete the 1,000 hour program the students with an
51 opportunity to take the state board barber licensing exam and upon passing, would become
52 licensed as if they had completed training and education at a full size barber training institution.

53 (d) The board may:

54 (i) provide and facilitate an online opportunity for all participating pilot barber shop
55 instructors to meet regularly to discuss the progress and to support the creation of standards for a
56 potential long term permanent in-shop training program.

57 (ii) request regular written status reports from participating barber instructors in order to
58 identify successes and challenges and to request agenda recommendations from the pilot barber
59 instructors for discussion at the above mentioned online meetings; and

60 (iii) create an online peer support network for new barber instructors to discuss their
61 individual program's efficacy and student goal-tracking.

62 SECTION 2. (a) The board shall, no later than 1 year after the initiation of the pilot
63 program, submit an annual report to the chairs of the joint committee on consumer protection and
64 professional licensure detailing:

65 (i) the status of the pilot program;

66 (ii) its participation by students and instructors, number of students who successfully
67 graduate and receive their barber licenses; and

68 (iii) the towns and cities in the commonwealth where pilot barber schools are located

69 (b) At the end of the 4 year pilot program, a report on the overall evaluation of the
70 program shall be provided to the chairs of the joint committee on consumer protection and
71 professional licensure. The report shall determine after 4 years:

72 (i) the feasibility of adopting this model as an optional and additional standardized
73 pathway for delivering and receiving barbering instruction in the commonwealth; and

74 (ii) the success of this alternative method for training barbers as measured by: (1) the
75 number of students enrolled and graduated and how this completion rate compares to traditional
76 and existing barber instruction model; (2) the number of barber shops and pilot instructors
77 recruited; (3) the geographic reach of the program in terms of instruction and subsequent
78 practicing barbers; (4) the number of barbers licensed as a result of completing in-shop
79 instruction, and (5) the impact of the online network of support for new barber instructors.

80 (c) A successful pilot shall result in the board recommending a permanent change in
81 barber licensure, allowing in-shop instruction to a smaller number of students as an alternative
82 training approach in the commonwealth.