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~COSMETOLOGY BILL PASSES OUT OF THE LEGISLATURE!~

TALLAHASSEE—

On the last day of Florida's 2008 Legislative Session, HB 415 found its way to the floor of the House and passed in the last hour after being held up in a House Council previously. The "sister bill", SB 996, had completed its journey to the floor of the Senate last week and passed unanimously.

The Florida Association of Beauty Professionals (FAB Professionals) supported the cosmetology bill this year after reaching a compromise with the House sponsor, Representative Jennifer Carroll, in February of this year.

"FAB Professionals opposed last year's bill due to the increase in hours from 1200 to 1800 for cosmetologists, the implementation of a new 1000-hour 'hair stylist' license, as well as the internship program," said Rick Wallace, Executive Director of FAB Professionals.

After last year's supported VETO of the bill by the Governor, FAB Professionals began meeting with association members and non-members, regulators and other industry leaders to come together with a compromise that would best benefit the industry.

"It was a continual work in progress but we settled on the hair stylist license staying in the bill if the hours of cosmetology were reduced to the national average of 1500," stated Wallace.

Mr. Wallace worked closely Rep. Carroll and was asked by Carroll to attend a meeting with Governor Crist on May 2 to discuss the stalled HB 415.

"Rep. Carroll did a great job presenting the new legislation, and I was there to show that FAB Professionals was standing by our compromise," Wallace concluded.

Here is what the new legislation will do:

- Grandfathers all current cosmetologists and holders of specialty registrations for nail technicians and facial specialists
- Changes the license requirements for cosmetologist:
 - Increases education hours from 1200 to 1500 hours
 - Continues to include hair stylist services, hair removal services, manicure and pedicure services for the natural nails, and basic skin services for facials
 - Restricts expanded skin treatment services and artificial nail services to those who obtain specialized training and licensure
- Creates three (3) new licenses:
 - Hair Stylist - continues to require licensure exam (current for cosmetologist)
 - **Decreases education requirements from 1200 to 1,000 hours** – allowing students to enter the workforce in less time and with less cost

- Allows hair removal (waxing/tweezing of eyebrows and lip)
- Nail Technician
 - Changes from registration to a license requiring state exam
 - Increases educational requirement from 240 to 350 hours
- Esthetician
 - Changes from registration to a license requiring state exam
 - Increases educational requirement from 260 to 600 hours
 - Provides in-depth training in skin care
- Improves health and safety by strengthening disinfection requirements and informing clients that they cannot receive services if they have contagious conditions
- Allows students to get to work faster by providing exam application process at 100 hours prior to graduation, so student can schedule exam upon graduation
- Requires students to pass licensure exam prior to working in the public
- Improves reciprocity for licenses with other states
- Allows licensed salons to provide complete cosmetology services at “special events’ by following specific guidelines.

FAB Professionals will be working closely with the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) and the Department of Education’s Commission for Independent Education (DOE, CIE) as this new legislation is implemented.

“It has been a busy year for FAB Professionals. As a new association, we have made great strides to unite the industry and provide quality service for our members. Our next big step is to get a tax-tip credit for our Florida salons. This should provide significant revenue savings and has been done in the restaurant industry already,” Wallace said.

For additional information, please contact Rick Wallace or Julie Todd at 850-580-4064 or go to www.fabpro.org.

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