Date of Hearing: August 5, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Buffy Wicks, Chair
SB 1363 (Wahab) – As Amended July 1, 2026

Policy Committee: Business and Professions Vote: 17 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: Yes Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill extends the sunset date on the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology (Board), within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), until January 1, 2031, and makes additional changes in response to issues raised during the Board's sunset review oversight process.

Among major provisions, this bill:

1) Extends the sunset on the Board's authority to administer the Barbering and Cosmetology Act (Act) by four years from January 1, 2027, to January 1, 2031.

2) Requires the Board to license a federally recognized tribe that applies for licensure and is otherwise compliant with the Act for the purpose of engaging in a regulated barbering or cosmetology business.

3) Specifies it is unlawful for a partnership or limited liability company (LLC) to engage in barbering, cosmetology, or electrolysis for compensation without a valid license.

4) Subjects an establishment licensed to do business as a corporation or LLC that fails to be registered and in good standing with the Secretary of State after notice from the Board to automatic suspension of its license.

5) Clarifies an establishment must at all times be in the charge of a licensed person when licensed services are being performed in the establishment.

6) Clarifies an apprentice must be employed by the owner of a licensed establishment and be licensed by the Board to engage in learning or acquiring a knowledge of barbering or cosmetology, as specified.

7) Establishes a framework for the Board to approve apprenticeship program sponsors.

8) Provides that failure to comply with the Act and all laws and regulations applicable to apprenticeships by a trainer, establishment owner, or apprenticeship program sponsor is grounds for disciplinary action, citation and fines, and prohibition from hiring future apprentices.

9) States that the remedial education program to be established by regulation in lieu of a first offense health and safety violation is a Board-approved program.

FISCAL EFFECT:

1) Ongoing annual costs of approximately $22 million (Barbering and Cosmetology Contingent Fund) to support 93 positions for the continued operation of the Board's licensing and enforcement activities beyond the January 1, 2027, sunset date. This fund is fully self-supporting with fee revenue.

2) The Board anticipates ongoing, absorbable annual costs of approximately $130,000 (special fund). These costs include $85,000 to administer the Remedial Education Program and track enrollment, completion, and compliance, and $45,000 related to Attorney General usage. The Board will be able to initiate and process revocations involving high-level enforcement support, including investigation and case prep, Attorney General handling, and post-hearing compliance. The Board anticipates additional absorbable costs related to regulatory updates which the Board cannot yet quantify.

3) The Board estimates ongoing revenue of $8,000 (special fund) from a new license type, "Apprenticeship Program Sponsor." The Board indicates the fee amount for the new license type has not been identified but estimates a fee of $250 and anticipates receiving 32 applications. Renewal will occur every two years.

4) The Department of Consumer Affair's Office of Information Services estimates one-time, absorbable costs of $70,000 to build a new "apprenticeship program sponsor" license type for the Board.

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose.** This bill is the sunset review vehicle for the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology, authored by the chair of the Senate Committee on Business, Professions, and Economic Development. The bill extends the sunset date for the Board and enacts technical changes, statutory improvements, and policy reforms in response to issues raised earlier this year during the Board's joint legislative sunset review oversight process.

2) **Background.** Existing law establishes the Board until January 1, 2027, and tasks the Board with administering the Barbering and Cosmetology Act, regulating specified practices through the licensure of barbers, cosmetologists, electrologists, manicurists, estheticians, hairstylists, and establishments. The Board is one of the largest boards in the country, with over 550,000 licensees. The Board annually issues approximately 275,000 initial and renewal licenses. Each profession has its own scope of practice, entry-level requirements and professional settings, with some overlap.

   The committee background paper for the Board's sunset review oversight hearing contained issues and recommendations regarding the cleanup and revision of Board business requirements, reforms to the apprenticeship program, and other technical issues, which are reflected in this bill.

3) **Related Legislation.** This bill is one of 10 sunset extension bills being considered as part of this year's Legislative sunset review process of professional boards and bureaus under DCA. Four others are pending in this committee, including SB 1302 – Registered Nursing, SB 1303 – Naturopathic Medicine, SB 1304 – Respiratory Care, and SB 1358 – Speech-Language

Pathologists and Audiologists and Hearing Aid Dispensers. The remaining five are Assembly bills and are pending in the Senate.

4) **Prior Legislation.** SB 803 (Roth), Chapter 648, Statutes of 2021, extended the operation of the Board and, among other things, reduced the required number of hours for courses in barbering and cosmetology to 1,000 hours and established a hairstylist license.

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