



Board for Barbers and Cosmetology

PROPOSED Guidance Document:

Master Barber Endorsement Eligibility

I. Background

In 2018, the General Assembly amended the Code of Virginia to create a new type of license: master barber. On April 1, 2019, the Board's revised regulations incorporating the master barber license took effect, including new language allowing master barbers from other states to endorse their license into Virginia. The endorsement regulation, 18 VAC 41-20-30, allows "any person currently license to practice as a ... master barber... in any other state or jurisdiction of the United States" to obtain a master barber license in Virginia upon establishing equivalent training and examination requirements were met in the other state.

II. Issue

All 50 states, plus the District of Columbia and several U.S. Territories, license barbers. The scope of practice varies substantially between the states. In some states, the barber license is similar to Virginia's, allowing hair cutting and shaving, but not much beyond that. In others, the barber license includes all services that in Virginia would fall under both barbering and master barbering. There are states in between these two, and some allow additional services.

Additionally, there are states that have a master barber license, but this frequently means different things. In some states, the master barber license is similar to Virginia's, but in other states it can mean a barber with a certain amount of experience, or simply permission to be an instructor. The Board could interpret 18 VAC 41-20-30 as limiting master barber endorsement to those who hold a "master barber license" in another state, but for a few states, this would not guarantee the licensee had the same training or scope of practice as the Virginia master barber license. There are about 10 states

with something called a “master barber” license; however, there are almost 30 states whose scope of practice for barbering includes what Virginia law identifies as master barbering.

III. Board Guidance

On May 13, 2019, the Board approved guidance for when a master barber endorsement candidate is considered “licensed to practice as a master barber” in another state under 18 VAC 41-20-30.

Individuals whose out-of-state barber or master barber license allows them to perform the services that fall under the master barber license in Virginia are considered licensed to practice as a master barber for the purpose of endorsement.

The Virginia Board for Barbers and Cosmetology will be taking public comment on this proposed guidance document regarding master barber endorsement eligibility. A 30-day comment period will begin on June 24, 2019.

If you wish to comment on the proposed guidance document, you may do so via the Town Hall website or you may submit written comments so that they are received no later than July 24, 2019 to:

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