

State of Arkansas  
95th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: S3/18/25

## A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1673

By: Representative L. Johnson

By: Senator Irvin

### For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING BARBERS; AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING BARBERS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-20-303 is amended to read as follows:  
17-20-303. Application.

(a) Any person, firm, or corporation desiring to operate as a barber, barber student, teacher manager instructor, teacher manager instructor student, barbershop, barber corporation, or barber school or college shall file an application for a certificate of registration on a form furnished by the State Board of Barber Examiners and pay the application fee.

(b) Any person who desires to practice barbering in this state shall file with the Director of the State Board of Barber Examiners a written application, ~~duly notarized,~~ with certification of at least one thousand five hundred (1,500) hours of barber training, together with:

(1) Two (2) identical passport-sized ~~signed~~ photographs; and

(2) A copy of his or her driver's license or record of state or federal identification card; ~~and.~~

~~(3) A copy of his or her Social Security card.~~

(c) A barber applying for reciprocity who has an unrevoked and unexpired license issued by the proper authorities of another state certifying that he or she has completed a minimum of one thousand five hundred (1,500) hours of training, may be issued a certificate of



registration as a registered barber upon making the application as required by this chapter and upon the payment of a reciprocity fee that shall include the license fee until the beginning of the next renewal period.

(d)(1) An unlicensed person applying for a license who has at least one thousand five hundred (1,500) hours of barber training may be granted registration by examination upon proof of training by the state board in the state in which the person received the training or by another appropriate authority and upon making application as required by law and upon payment of an application fee and examination fee.

(2) To obtain registration in this state as a registered barber,  
 A a barber applying for reciprocity who has an unrevoked an unexpired license issued by the proper authorities of another state and who has fewer than one thousand five hundred (1,500) hours of barber training:

(A) ~~must~~ Must:

(i) ~~also have~~ Have been continuously engaged in the practice of barbering for at least one (1) year, in addition to providing proof of licensure and training by the ~~state board~~ proper authorities of the state where the applicant received training or holds a license; ~~or~~

(ii) ~~complete~~ Complete the required ~~number of~~ one thousand five hundred (1,500) hours, of barber training; and

(B) Must:

(i) File an application with the State Board of Barber Examiners; and

(ii) Pay a reciprocity fee and upon making application as required by law and upon payment of a reciprocity fee.

(e)(1) A ~~person~~ barber applying for reciprocity who ~~is licensed in~~ has an unrevoked and unexpired license issued by the proper authorities of a foreign country ~~as a barber~~ is required to pass a practical examination administered by the State Board of Barber Examiners and pay the examination fee to qualify for a license in this state.

(2) All documents submitted for the purpose of complying with the requirements for examination shall be ~~original copies and~~ translated into the English language.

~~(3) The application shall be accompanied with a money order for the reciprocity and examination fee.~~

(f) A person who has been continuously licensed or registered in

another state to practice barbering as a teacher manager instructor who also meets the requirements under § 17-20-406 may be issued a certificate of registration as a registered barber and teacher manager instructor upon making application as required by law and upon payment of a reciprocity fee to obtain registration in this state as a registered barber, plus a teacher manager instructor reciprocity fee.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 17-20-304(a), concerning examinations for a certificate of registration to practice as a registered barber, is amended to read as follows:

(a) An applicant for a certificate of registration to practice as a registered barber ~~who fails to pass a satisfactory examination conducted by the State Board of Barber Examiners may apply for another examination at any future meeting of the board~~ shall pass an examination approved by the State Board of Barber Examiners.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 17-20-307(d)(1), concerning a personal lifetime barber license, is amended to read as follows:

(d)(1) A barber who holds a current license in this state shall be issued a personal lifetime license at eighty (80) years of age ~~upon his or her request.~~

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 17-20-308(7), concerning grounds for disciplinary action related to barbers, is amended to read as follows:

(7) ~~Immoral or unprofessional~~ Unprofessional conduct;

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 17-20-404(a)(7), concerning an application for a license and approval as a registered school or college of barbering, is amended to read as follows:

(7)(A) ~~Evidence~~ Except as provided under subdivision (a)(7)(B), evidence that a ~~performance~~ surety bond of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) guaranteeing the operation of the school or college has been secured.

(B) A registered school or college of barbering that is also a public education entity, a state-supported institution of higher education, or any other state-supported entity as determined by the State Board of Barber Examiners is not required to secure a surety bond under

subdivision (a)(7)(A) of this section.

SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 17-20-406(a)(1), concerning teacher manager instructor certification for barber schools, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) Application for examination for a teacher manager instructor certificate shall be filed with the State Board of Barber Examiners on blank forms prepared ~~and furnished~~ by the board and shall be accompanied by the fee prescribed in § 17-20-409.

SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 17-20-407(c), concerning course of study, is amended to read as follows:

(c) Each barber college shall abide by the following guidelines:

(1) Conduct a course of study and training which shall consist of not fewer than five hundred fifty (550) hours for students who are licensed cosmetologists, and as to all other students not fewer than one thousand five hundred (1,500) clock hours. ~~The average daily schedule of each student shall consist of the following:~~

~~(A) One and one fourth (1¼) clock hours of theoretical study in a classroom;~~

~~(B) One and one fourth (1¼) clock hours of scientific barber practice in a classroom other than general clinic; and~~

~~(C) Five (5) clock hours of general barber practice. Each barber college shall average five (5) services per day per student;~~

~~(2) Teach no fewer than one third (⅓) of its total enrollment scientific barbering practice, theory, or general barber practice at one (1) time;~~

~~(3)~~(2) Post a daily schedule of its course of study in its general clinic where it can be easily read by all students; and

~~(4)~~(3) Require a maximum attendance in all subjects. A student shall not be permitted to spend more than eight (8) hours in the college in any one (1) day.

SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 17-20-408(e)(1), concerning the minimum number of barber chairs in a training room of a school or college of barbering, is amended to read as follows:

(e)(1) A minimum of ~~fifteen (15)~~ sixteen (16) barber chairs in modern

and new condition;

SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 17-20-420 is amended to read as follows:  
17-20-420. Application for enrollment.

(a) A school of barbering shall not enroll or admit any student thereto unless the student ~~makes and files in duplicate a duly verified application~~ submits to the State Board of Barber Examiners:

(1) An application; and

(2) The fee prescribed for the administration of the student application and student license.

(b) This ~~This~~ The application required under subsection (a) of this section shall be of such form and contain such matters as the ~~State Board of Barber Examiners~~ board may prescribe.

~~(b) One (1) copy of the application shall be retained by the school enrolling or admitting the student, and one (1) copy shall be filed by the school with the board, along with the fee prescribed for the administration of the student application and student license.~~

SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 17-20-421(a)(3), concerning applications for admission to a barber college or examination to receive a certificate of registration as a registered barber, is amended to read as follows:

(3) The application for enrollment shall be accompanied with identification of the applicant in the form of:

~~(A) A copy of his or her Social Security card;~~

~~(B)~~ A driver's license or a state-issued or federally-  
issued identification card; and

~~(C)~~(B) Two (2) passport-sized photographs ~~of the applicant~~  
~~with the name of the applicant on the back.~~

*/s/L. Johnson*

**APPROVED: 4/3/25**