



March 1, 2024

TO: Delegates Chris Phillips, Pat McGeehan, Kayla Young, Ric Griffith, David Adkins, Jordan Bridges, Eric Brooks, Adam Burkhammer, Jim Butler, Geno Chiarelli, Kathie Hess Crouse, Mark Dean, Don Forsht, Rick Hillenbrand, Hollis Lewis, Todd Longanacre, Phil Mallow, Carl Martin, George Miller, Chris Pritt, Mark A. Ross, Doug Smith, Adam Vance, Diana Winzenreid, and Evan Worrell

CC: Representative Geoffrey Bruce Foster

RE: ASCP/AHP/ANP Comments on House Bill 5566

POSITION: Support

Associated Skin Care Professionals, Associated Hair Professionals, and Associated Nail Professionals (the Associations) provide professional liability insurance, business resources, professional publications, and legislative and regulatory advocacy for more than 47,000 members nationwide.

The Associations are in support of [House Bill 5566](#) (HB 5566), known as the Cosmetology Licensure Compact (Compact), for many reasons. The Associations believe HB 5566 is ultimately a benefit to licensed cosmetologists because it will allow practitioners to gain employment more easily and faster in other compact states.

The Compact is a vastly superior alternative to onerous licensure-by-endorsement processes. It also has the potential to support military families as they move around the country. In addition, the Compact will benefit West Virginia's bottom line with potential increased taxable income. It will also assist the West Virginia Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists by enhancing public safety, reducing application processing time, and expanding cooperation among state regulatory boards.

The Compact bill language was carefully drafted to ensure that licensed cosmetologists will be properly educated and vetted. Once at least seven states pass the bill and the Cosmetology Compact Commission drafts rules, cosmetologists in participating states will be able to obtain a multistate license, so long as they have no encumbrances against their license in their home state.

The Associations also applaud the Compact's regard for public safety. Participating states will need established processes to investigate and prosecute complaints. Participating states also will require students to pass a cosmetology examination; require licensees to satisfy educational and training requirements; and will develop rules regarding required criminal history, disciplinary history, and background checks.

In conclusion, the Associations fully support the Compact's efforts to increase the mobility of lawfully practicing cosmetologists in compact-participating states and encourage you to vote yes on HB 5566.

Please contact me at lhostetter@pac.company if you have comments or questions.

Sincerely,

Lance Hostetter, Government Relations Director
Associated Skin Care Professionals
Associated Hair Professionals
Associated Nail Professionals