

Hello Representative Norm Thurston,

My name is Brinnly Buxton. I am the constituent who is hoping to lower the requirements for lash extensions. I appreciate your support on this issue and I would like to share a few more details with you. I would also like to request that the OPLR committee look in to this matter.

I'm a cosmetologist who specializes in lash extensions. The process of becoming licensed is very time consuming and expensive. While I think the long hours are important for learning hair coloring and cutting, chemical peels and skin care (and more), I think lashing is in a separate category and can be taught in its own special course. Although it takes many hours to get better and faster at lashing, it is very straightforward unlike hair coloring or cutting.

Other state reps have spent time on this subject prior to my involvement, and the concerns are that the 1600+ hours for cosmetology and the 600+ hours for esthetics are needed to be properly trained with lash extension chemicals and tools. After a little bit of research and asking around, I learned some shocking news.

At Aveda School in Provo, they have both a cosmetology program and esthetician program. Neither program has a mandatory lash course, it is only a possible add-on in the esthetics course.

At Evans Hairstyling College (in Lindon), there is no hands-on lash course. They hold a brief lecture, and then have an option to participate in a separate lash course through a lash company. Whether or not the student takes the lash course, they are legally licensed to do lashes as long as they pass the state boards. (Lashing is not part of the state boards.)

At Renaissance Academie, the lash course is 8-12 hours through the cosmetology program. That is much better than nothing, but one downside to lash courses within a hair school is that there are often many more students than there are teachers. So poor jobs easily go unseen (it takes several minutes and great attention to detail to check an artist's lash work. Each lash must be inspected and there are roughly 100-150 natural lashes per eye. So if one teacher is in charge of say 10 students, they would need at least 30 minutes just to check the completed lash work.)

At Acaydia Spa and School of Aesthetics, they have 12 hours of hands-on lash training. I think this is a much better opportunity for those wanting to learn lashes. However, still the ratio of students to teachers can be an issue here. I should also note that I have fixed many licensed lash artist's work. Many of them have even been the work of a stylist in a highly rated salon or spa.

Of course, if the license-only restriction were to be lifted, there would still need to be some regulations and requirements. My thoughts are that people need to learn through a licensed lash school/company. And ideally, these companies would have access to

some sort of Utah certificate to give to their students. The teachers at these companies should be licensed instructors of cosmetology or esthetics. One popular lash academy called NALA (based in Canada and known globally), allows six students to one teacher. I also think that requiring a limit like that would allow better supervision and help produce more qualified lash artists.

In conclusion, having a specialized lash course for anyone to participate in would be beneficial to many people. Busy mothers and students could have a side business, because it would be less time consuming and a fraction of the cost of hair or esthetic schools. It would help eliminate unlicensed lash artists, because they would have the option of taking a specialized lash course. And finally, it would open up more opportunities for cosmetologists like myself, who want to share their knowledge of lash extensions with others.

I appreciate your support and hope the committee supports this idea as well. I would love to move this forward to start benefiting those in our state. Thank you!

Brinnly Buxton