OLR Bill Analysis
sSB 1058 (File 764, as amended by Senate “A”)*

AN ACT CONCERNING THE LICENSURE OF TATTOO TECHNICIANS.

SUMMARY

Existing law generally requires an individual to obtain a license or temporary permit from the Department of Public Health (DPH) to engage in the practice of tattooing. This bill modifies licensure requirements by:

1. requiring initial licensure applicants to complete at least 2,000 hours of practical training and experience as a student tattoo technician under the supervision of a licensed tattoo technician with at least five years of experience (“supervising tattoo technician”), instead of any licensed tattoo technician, as under current law;

2. prohibiting supervising tattoo technicians from supervising more than two students and requiring them to maintain records on each student for three years documenting completion of minimum training requirements;

3. eliminating the option for initial licensure applicants to practice tattooing in the state for at least five years prior to January 1, 2015, in lieu of the required 2,000 hours of supervised practical training and experience; and

4. adding the requirement that applicants for initial or renewed licensure or licensure by endorsement (i.e., those licensed in other states) comply with DPH’s infection prevention and control plan guidelines.

*Senate Amendment “A” adds the provisions requiring (1) initial licensure applicants to complete at least 2,000 hours of training
experience under the supervision of a supervising tattoo technician
and (2) student tattoo technicians to obtain a notarized statement
signed by their supervising tattoo technician documenting completion
of the training requirement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

STUDENT TATTOO TECHNICIANS

Current law allows a student tattoo technician to practice tattooing
under the personal supervision of a licensed tattoo technician for up to
two years, so that the student may complete the 2,000 hours of
supervised training experience required for licensure. The bill requires
the student to obtain a notarized statement signed by his or her
supervising tattoo technician documenting completion of the training
requirements.

As under current law, the bill requires student tattoo technicians to
register with DPH for the purposes of completing the practical training
and experience required for licensure.

SUPERVISING TATTOO TECHNICIANS

The bill requires a supervising tattoo technician to be licensed for at
least five years and prohibits him or her from supervising more than
two students. The supervising tattoo technician must also maintain
records on each student for three years documenting completion of the
following minimum training requirements:

1. discussion of transmission, control, and symptoms of diseases
caued by blood-borne pathogens;

2. discussion of tasks involved in practicing tattooing and the risks
of exposure to blood-borne pathogens to the client and tattoo
technician while performing each task;

3. discussion of the types and uses of personal protective
equipment, including an explanation of their limitations;

4. discussion of the types of tasks, proper task technique, and
sequence of tasks before and after wearing and removing personal protective equipment to avoid contamination;

5. discussion of the importance of hand hygiene and a demonstration of proper hand hygiene techniques;

6. discussion of the options, use, and storage of disinfectants and antiseptics;

7. information on required signs for biohazard materials and the importance of properly labeling chemicals and supplies;

8. information on the hepatitis B vaccine, including its safety and accessibility;

9. discussion of what constitutes a blood-borne pathogen exposure incident, including (a) examples of such incidences and the actions to take to prevent or minimize further exposure; (b) infection risks following exposure; and (c) procedures to follow after exposure, including follow-up medical treatment; and

10. opportunities for interactive questions and answers between the supervisor and student.

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL PLAN

The bill adds to the requirements for applicants seeking initial or renewed licensure or licensure by endorsement (i.e., those currently licensed in another state) as a tattoo technician. Specifically, it requires such applicants to sign a form prescribed by DPH attesting that they are in compliance with the commissioner’s infection prevention and control plan guidelines. The guidelines must include the following:

1. using personal protective equipment, including disposable gloves, as a barrier against infectious materials;

2. practicing appropriate hand hygiene, including having a hand-washing sink available in the area where tattooing occurs;

3. decontaminating and sterilizing with hospital grade cleaner the
area or materials used to tattoo, including chairs, armrests, tables, countertops, trays, seats, furniture, and reusable instruments that may come in contact with skin or mucosal surfaces; and

4. using disposable equipment appropriately and disposing sharps (i.e., needles) used during tattooing.

Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, applicants must also (1) successfully complete a course with a required examination on preventing disease transmission and blood-borne pathogens and (2) be currently certified in basic first aid by the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 25 Nay 0 (03/29/2019)