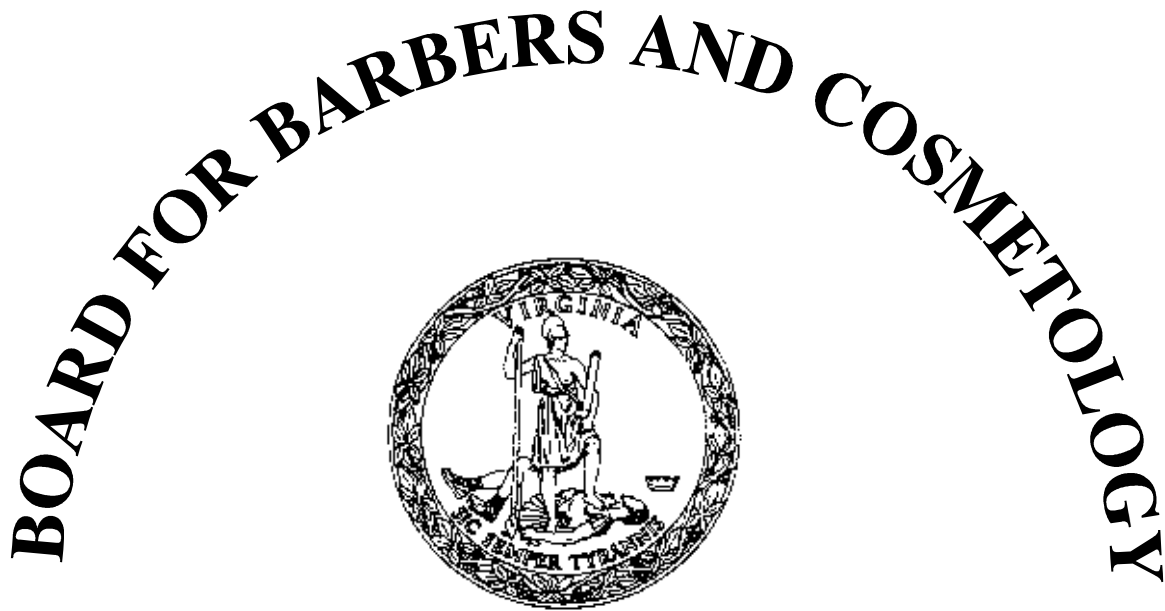




BODY-PIERCING REGULATIONS

Last Updated August 1, 2025

STATUTES

Title 54.1, Chapter 7



Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation

Perimeter Center, Suite 400
9960 Mayland Drive
Richmond, Virginia 23233
(804) 367-8500
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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This booklet contains the information you will need to obtain your license. The law that governs your profession is found in the *Code of Virginia*, 1950, as amended, in Title 54.1, Chapter 7. That law permits the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation to issue regulations that tell you more about what is expected of you in your profession. This booklet contains a copy of the regulations that you will need to know and obey to get and keep your license.

BE SURE YOU READ AND UNDERSTAND THE STANDARDS OF PRACTICE AND CONDUCT. YOUR FAILURE TO OBEY THESE STANDARDS COULD RESULT IN A MONETARY PENALTY OR LOSS OF YOUR LICENSE.

It is the goal of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation to provide you with the information you need to comply with the law and regulations. If you have a question and cannot find the answer to it in this booklet, please write to:

Board for Barbers and Cosmetology
Perimeter Center, Suite 400
9960 Mayland Drive
Richmond, VA 23233

Or call the Agency at (804) 367-8509

Or e-mail at barbercosmo@dpor.virginia.gov

Information is also available on the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation website:

www.dpor.virginia.gov

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CHAPTER 60.

BODY-PIERCING REGULATIONS

PART I.

GENERAL.

The following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. All terms defined in Chapter 7 (§ [54.1-700](#) et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia are incorporated in this chapter.

"Apprenticeship program" means an approved body-piercing training program conducted by an approved apprenticeship sponsor.

"Apprenticeship sponsor" means an individual approved to conduct body-piercing apprenticeship training who meets the qualifications in [18VAC41-60-70](#).

"Aseptic technique" means a hygienic practice that prevents and hinders the direct transfer of microorganisms, regardless of pathogenicity, from one person or place to another person or place.

"Body piercer ear only" means any person who uses only a mechanized, presterilized ear-piercing system that penetrates the outer perimeter or lobe of the ear or both for compensation.

"Body piercing ear only" means the use of a mechanized, presterilized ear-piercing system that penetrates the outer perimeter or lobe of the ear or both.

"Body-piercing ear only salon" means any place in which a fee is charged for the act of using a mechanized, presterilized ear-piercing system that penetrates the outer perimeter or lobe of the ear or both.

"Business entity" means a sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, or any other form of organization permitted by law.

"Endorsement" means a method of obtaining a license by a person who is currently licensed in another state or jurisdiction of the United States.

"Firm" means any business entity recognized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

"Gratuitous services" as used in § [54.1-701.5](#) of the Code Virginia means providing body-piercing services without receiving compensation or reward, or obligation. Gratuitous services do not include services provided at no charge when goods are purchased.

"Licensee" means any person, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, sole proprietorship, limited liability partnership, or any other form of organization permitted by law holding a license issued by the Board for Barbers and Cosmetology as defined in § [54.1-700](#) of the Code of Virginia.

"Reinstatement" means having a license restored to effectiveness after the expiration date has passed.

"Renewal" means continuing the effectiveness of a license for another period of time.

"Responsible management" means the following individuals:

1. The sole proprietor of a sole proprietorship;

2. The partners of a general partnership;
3. The managing partners of a limited partnership;
4. The officers of a corporation;
5. The managers of a limited liability company;
6. The officers or directors of an association or both; and
7. Individuals in other business entities recognized under the laws of the Commonwealth as having a fiduciary responsibility to the firm.

"Sole proprietor" means any individual, not a corporation, who is trading under that individual's own name or under an assumed or fictitious name pursuant to the provisions of §§ [59.1-69](#) through [59.1-76](#) of the Code of Virginia.

"Sterilization area" means a separate room or area separate from workstations with restricted client access in which body-piercing instruments are cleaned, disinfected, and sterilized.

"Temporary location" means a fixed location at which body piercing is performed for a specified length of time of not more than seven days in conjunction with a single event or convention.

Historical Notes

Derived from Virginia Register [Volume 23, Issue 12](#), eff. April 1, 2007; amended Virginia Register [Volume 39, Issue 22](#), eff. September 1, 2023.

PART II.

ENTRY.

18 VAC 41-60-20. General Requirements

A. Any individual wishing to engage in body-piercing shall obtain a license in compliance with § [54.1-703](#) of the Code of Virginia and meet the following qualifications:

1. The applicant shall be in good standing as a body piercer in every jurisdiction where licensed, certified, or registered. The applicant shall disclose to the board at the time of application for licensure any disciplinary action taken in Virginia or any other jurisdiction in connection with the applicant's practice as a body piercer. This disclosure includes monetary penalties, fines, suspensions, revocations, surrender of a license in connection with a disciplinary action, or voluntary termination of a license. The applicant shall disclose to the board at the time of application for licensure if the applicant has been previously licensed in Virginia as a body piercer.

Upon review of the applicant's prior disciplinary action, the board, in its discretion, may deny licensure to any applicant wherein the board deems the applicant is unfit or unsuited to engage in body piercing and body piercing ear only. The board will decide each case by taking into account the totality of the circumstances. Any plea of nolo contendere or comparable plea shall be considered a disciplinary action for the purposes of this subdivision. The applicant shall provide a certified copy of a final order, decree, or case decision by a court, regulatory agency, or board with the lawful authority to issue such order, decree, or case decision, and such copy shall be admissible as prima facie evidence of such disciplinary action.

2. The applicant shall disclose the applicant's physical address. A post office box is not acceptable.
3. The applicant shall sign, as part of the application, a statement certifying that the applicant has read and understands the Virginia body-piercing license laws and this chapter.
4. In accordance with § [54.1-204](#) of the Code of Virginia, each applicant shall disclose the following information regarding criminal convictions in Virginia and all other jurisdictions:
 - a. All misdemeanor convictions involving moral turpitude, sexual offense, non-marijuana drug distribution, or physical injury within two years of the date of the application; and
 - b. All felony convictions within 20 years of the date of application.

Any plea of nolo contendere shall be considered a conviction for purposes of this subdivision. The record of a conviction received from a court shall be accepted as prima facie evidence of a conviction or finding of guilt. The board, in its discretion, may deny licensure to any applicant in accordance with § [54.1-204](#) of the Code of Virginia.

5. The applicant shall provide evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant has passed the board-approved examination, administered either by the board or by a designated testing service.

B. Eligibility to sit for board-approved body piercer examination.

1. Training in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Any person completing an approved body-piercing apprenticeship program in a Virginia licensed body-piercing salon shall be eligible to sit for the examination.
2. Training outside of the Commonwealth of Virginia, but within the United States or jurisdiction of the United States. Any person completing a body-piercing training or apprenticeship program that is substantially equivalent to the Virginia program but is outside of the Commonwealth of Virginia must submit to the board documentation of the successful completion of training or apprenticeship to be eligible for examination. If less than required hours of body-piercing training or body-piercing apprenticeship was completed, an applicant must submit (i) documentation acceptable to the board verifying the completion of a substantially equivalent body-piercing training or body-piercing apprenticeship or documentation of three years of work experience within the preceding five years as a body piercer and (ii) documentation of completion of a minimum of five hours of health education to include (a) bloodborne disease, sterilization, and aseptic techniques related to body piercing, (b) first aid; and (c) CPR that is acceptable to the board in order to be eligible for examination.

C. In order to receive a license as a body piercer ear only, an applicant must meet the following qualifications:

1. The applicant shall have completed a minimum of three hours of health education to include bloodborne disease and first aid that is acceptable to the board and provide verification of training on a mechanized, presterilized ear-piercing system that penetrates the outer perimeter or lobe of the ear or both and aftercare of piercing.
2. The applicant shall be in good standing in every jurisdiction where licensed, certified, or registered. The applicant shall disclose to the board at the time of application for licensure any disciplinary action taken in another jurisdiction in connection with the applicant's licensed, certified, or registered practice. The applicant shall disclose to the board at the time of application for licensure whether he has been previously licensed in Virginia in any profession regulated by the board.
3. The applicant shall disclose the applicant's physical address. A post office box is not acceptable.
4. The applicant shall sign, as part of the application, a statement certifying that the applicant has read and understands the Virginia body-piercing license laws and the board's body-piercing regulations.

5. In accordance with § [54.1-204](#) of the Code of Virginia, each applicant shall disclose the following information regarding criminal convictions in Virginia and all other jurisdictions:

- a. All misdemeanor convictions involving moral turpitude, sexual offense, non-marijuana drug distribution, or physical injury within two years of the date of the application; and
- b. All felony convictions within 20 years of the date of application.

Any plea of nolo contendere shall be considered a conviction for purposes of this subdivision. The record of a conviction received from a court shall be accepted as prima facie evidence of a conviction or finding of guilt. The board, in its discretion, may deny licensure to any applicant in accordance with § [54.1-204](#) of the Code of Virginia.

Historical Notes

Derived from Virginia Register [Volume 23, Issue 12](#), eff. April 1, 2007; amended Virginia Register [Volume 39, Issue 22](#), eff. September 1, 2023.

18 VAC 41-60-30. License by Endorsement.

Upon proper application to the board, any person currently licensed to practice as a body piercer in any other state or jurisdiction of the United States and who has completed a training or apprenticeship program and an examination that is substantially equivalent to that required by this chapter may be issued a body piercer license without an examination. The applicant must also meet the requirements set forth in [18VAC41-60-20](#) A 1 through A 4.

Historical Notes

Derived from [Volume 23, Issue 12](#), eff. April 1, 2007; amended Virginia Register [Volume 39, Issue 22](#), eff. September 1, 2023.

18 VAC 41-60-40. Examination Requirements and Fees.

A. Applicants for initial licensure shall pass an examination approved by the board. The examinations may be administered by the board or by a designated testing service.

B. Any candidate failing to appear as scheduled for examination shall forfeit the examination fee.

C. The applicant shall follow all procedures established by the board with regard to conduct at the examination. Such procedures shall include any written instructions communicated prior to the examination date and any instructions communicated at the site, either written or oral, on the date of the examination. Failure to comply with all procedures established by the board and the testing service with regard to conduct at the examination may be grounds for denial of application.

D. Any applicant who does not pass a reexamination within one year of the initial examination date shall be required to submit a new application.

E. The fee for examination or reexamination is subject to contracted charges to the board by an outside vendor. These contracts are competitively negotiated and bargained for in compliance with the Virginia Public Procurement Act (§ [2.2-4300](#) et seq. of the Code of Virginia). Fees may be adjusted and charged to the candidate in accordance with these contracts. The fee shall not exceed \$225 per candidate.

F. Any candidate failing to apply for initial licensure within five years of passing the written examination shall be required to retake the examination. Records of examinations shall be maintained for a maximum of five years.

Historical Notes

Derived from Virginia Register [Volume 23, Issue 12](#), eff. April 1, 2007; amended Virginia Register [Volume 39, Issue 22](#), eff. September 1, 2023.

18 VAC 41-60-50. Repealed

Historical Notes

Derived from [Volume 23, Issue 12](#), eff. April 1, 2007; repealed, Virginia Register [Volume 39, Issue 22](#), eff. September 1, 2023.

18 VAC 41-60-60. Repealed

Historical Notes

Derived from [Volume 23, Issue 12](#), eff. April 1, 2007; repealed Virginia Register [Volume 39, Issue 22](#), eff. September 1, 2023.

18VAC41-60-70. General Requirements for a Body-Piercing Apprenticeship Sponsor.

A. Upon filing an application with the Board for Barbers and Cosmetology, any person meeting the qualifications set forth in this section may be eligible to sponsor a body-piercing apprentice if the person:

1. Holds a current Virginia body-piercing license;
2. Provides documentation of legally practicing body piercing for at least five years; and
3. Provides documentation indicating that he is in good standing in all jurisdictions where the practice of body piercing is regulated.

B. Apprenticeship sponsors shall be required to maintain a body piercer license.

C. Apprenticeship sponsors shall ensure compliance with the 1500-hour Body-Piercing Apprenticeship Program and Body-Piercing Apprenticeship Standards.

Historical Notes

Derived from [Volume 23, Issue 12](#), eff. April 1, 2007.

18VAC41-60-80. Salon License.

A. Any firm wishing to operate a body-piercing salon or body-piercing ear only salon shall obtain a salon license in compliance with § [54.1-704.1](#) of the Code of Virginia and shall meet the following qualifications in order to receive a license:

1. The applicant and all members of the responsible management shall be in good standing as a licensed salon in Virginia and all other jurisdictions where licensed. The applicant and all members of the responsible management shall disclose to the board at the time of application for licensure any disciplinary action taken in Virginia and all other jurisdictions in connection with the applicant's operation of any body-piercing salon or body-piercing ear only salon or practice of the profession. This disclosure includes monetary penalties, fines, suspensions, revocations, surrender of a license in connection with a disciplinary action, or voluntary termination of a license. The applicant shall disclose to the board at the time of application for licensure if the applicant or any member of the responsible management has been previously licensed in Virginia as a body-piercing salon or body-piercing ear only salon.

Upon review of the applicant's and all members of the responsible management's prior disciplinary action, the board, in its discretion, may deny licensure to any applicant wherein it deems the applicant is unfit or unsuited to engage in the operation of a body-piercing salon or body-piercing ear only salon. The board will decide each case by taking into account the totality of the circumstances. Any plea of nolo contendere or comparable plea shall be considered a disciplinary action for the purposes of this subdivision. The applicant shall provide a certified copy of a final order, decree, or case decision by a court, regulatory agency, or

board with the lawful authority to issue such order, decree, or case decision, and such copy shall be admissible as prima facie evidence of such disciplinary action.

2. The applicant shall disclose his physical address. A post office box is not acceptable.

3. The applicant shall sign, as part of the application, a statement certifying that the applicant has read and understands the Virginia body-piercing license laws and this chapter.

4. In accordance with § [54.1-204](#) of the Code of Virginia, each applicant shall disclose the following information about the firm and all members of the responsible management regarding criminal convictions in Virginia and all other jurisdictions:

- a. All misdemeanor convictions involving moral turpitude, sexual offense, non-marijuana drug distribution, or physical injury within two years of the date of the application; and
- b. All felony convictions within 20 years of the date of application.

Any plea of nolo contendere shall be considered a conviction for purposes of this subsection. The record of a conviction received from a court shall be accepted as prima facie evidence of a conviction or finding of guilt. The board, in its discretion, may deny licensure to any applicant in accordance with § [54.1-204](#) of the Code of Virginia.

5. The applicant shall disclose the firm's responsible management.

B. A body-piercing salon license or body-piercing ear only salon license shall not be transferable and shall bear the same name and address of the business entity. Any changes in the name or address of the salon shall be reported to the board in writing within 30 days of such changes. New responsible management shall be responsible for applying for a new license within 30 days of the changes.

C. Whenever the legal business entity holding the license is dissolved or altered to form a new business entity, the original license becomes void and shall be returned to the board within 30 days of the change. Additionally, the firm shall apply for a new license within 30 days of the change in the business entity. Such changes include:

1. Death of a sole proprietor;
 2. Death or withdrawal of a general partner in a general partnership or the managing partner in a limited partnership; and
 3. Conversion, formation, or dissolution of a corporation, a limited liability company, an association, or any other business entity recognized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- D. Any change in the officers of a corporation, managers of a limited liability company, or officers or directors of an association shall be reported to the board in writing within 30 days of the change.
- E. Any firm wishing to operate a body-piercing salon in a temporary location must have a body-piercing salon license issued by the board.

Historical Notes

Derived from [Volume 23, Issue 12](#), eff. April 1, 2007; amended Virginia Register [Volume 39, Issue 22](#), eff. September 1, 2023.

PART III.

FEES.

18 VAC 41-60-90. Fees.

The following fees apply:

FEE TYPE	AMOUNT DUE	WHEN DUE
Individuals:		
Application	\$120	With application
License by Endorsement	\$120	With application
Renewal:	\$120	With renewal card prior to expiration date
Reinstatement	\$240* *includes \$120 renewal fee and \$120 reinstatement fee	With reinstatement application
Salons:		
Application	\$220	With application
Renewal	\$220	With renewal card prior to expiration date
Reinstatement	\$440* *includes \$220 renewal fee and \$220 reinstatement fee	With reinstatement application

Historical Notes

Derived from [Volume 23, Issue 12](#), eff. April 1, 2007; amended, [Volume 27, Issue 23](#), eff. September 1, 2011; [Volume 30, Issue 10](#), eff. March 1, 2014; [Volume 32, Issue 24](#), eff. September 1, 2016; [Volume 34, Issue 22](#), eff. June 25, 2018; [Volume 36, Issue 21](#), eff. September 1, 2020; [Volume 38, Issue 25](#), eff. September 1, 2022; [Volume 41, Issue 22](#), eff. August 1, 2025.

18 VAC 41-60-100. Refunds.

All fees are nonrefundable and shall not be prorated.

Historical Notes

Derived from [Volume 23, Issue 12](#), eff. April 1, 2007.

PART IV.

RENEWAL/REINSTATEMENT.

18 VAC 41-60-110. License Renewal Required.

All body piercer, body piercer ear only, body-piercing salon, and body-piercing ear only salon licenses shall expire two years from the last day of the month in which it was issued.

Historical Notes

Derived from [Volume 23, Issue 12](#), eff. April 1, 2007; amended, Virginia Register [Volume 39, Issue 22](#), eff. September 1, 2023.

18 VAC 41-60-120. Continuing Education Requirement.

All licensed body piercers shall be required to satisfactorily complete a minimum of five hours of health education to include (i) bloodborne disease, sterilization, and aseptic techniques related to body piercing; (ii) first aid; and (iii) CPR during their licensed term. All licensed body piercers ear only shall be required to satisfactorily complete a minimum of three hours of health education to include bloodborne disease and first aid during their licensed term. Documentation of training completion shall be provided at the time of renewal along with the required fee.

Historical Notes

Derived from [Volume 23, Issue 12](#), eff. April 1, 2007; amended, Virginia Register [Volume 39, Issue 22](#), eff. September 1, 2023.

18 VAC 41-60-130. Notice of Renewal.

The Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation will mail a renewal notice to the licensee outlining the procedures for renewal. Failure to receive this notice, however, shall not relieve the licensee of the obligation to renew. If the licensee fails to receive the renewal notice, a copy of the old license may be submitted as evidence of intent to renew, along with the required fee.

Historical Notes

Derived from [Volume 23, Issue 12](#), eff. April 1, 2007.

18 VAC 41-60-140. Failure to Renew.

A. When an individual or business entity fails to renew its license within 30 days following its expiration date, the licensee shall meet the renewal requirements prescribed in [18 VAC41-60-120](#) and [18VAC41-60-130](#) and apply for reinstatement of the license by submitting to the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation a reinstatement application along with the required renewal and reinstatement fees.

B. When an individual or business entity fails to renew its license within two years following the expiration date, reinstatement is no longer possible. To resume practice:

1. The former licensee shall apply for licensure as a new applicant, shall meet all current application requirements, shall pass the board's current examination, if applicable, and shall receive a new license.

2. An individual initially granted licensure under an examination exemption, known as grandfathering, pursuant to [18VAC41-60-20 A 6](#) shall submit a new application showing the individual met the requirements of the applicable examination waiver provision, demonstrate five years of licensed experience, and pass the required examination.

C. The date a renewal fee is received by the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, or its agent, will be used to determine whether the requirement for reinstatement of a license is applicable and an additional fee is required.

D. When a license is reinstated, the licensee shall have the same license number and shall be assigned an expiration date two years from the date of the last day of the month of reinstatement.

E. A licensee that reinstates its license shall be regarded as having been continuously licensed without interruption. Therefore, a licensee shall be subject to the authority of the board for activities performed prior to reinstatement.

F. A licensee that fails to reinstate its license shall be regarded as unlicensed from the expiration date of the license forward. Nothing in this chapter shall divest the board of its authority to discipline a licensee for a violation of the law or regulations during the period of time for which the individual was licensed.

Historical Notes

Derived from Virginia Register [Volume 23, Issue 12](#), eff. April 1, 2007; amended, Virginia Register [Volume 39, Issue 22](#), eff. September 1, 2023; [Volume 39, Issue 22](#), eff. October 1, 2023.

PART V.

BODY-PIERCING APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

18 VAC 41-60-150. Applicants for Board Approval.

A. Any person desiring to enroll in the body-piercing apprenticeship program shall be required to provide documentation of satisfactory completion of a minimum of five hours of health education to include but not limited to blood borne disease, sterilization, and aseptic techniques related to body piercing, and first aid and CPR.

B. Any body piercer desiring approval to perform the duties of an apprenticeship sponsor and offer the board's body-piercing apprenticeship program shall meet the requirements in [18VAC41-60-70](#).

C. All apprenticeship training shall be conducted in a body-piercing salon that has met the requirements of [18VAC41-60-80](#).

Historical Notes

Derived from [Volume 23, Issue 12](#), eff. April 1, 2007.

18 VAC 41-60-160. Body-Piercing Apprenticeship Curriculum Requirements.

Body-piercing apprenticeship curriculum requirements are set out in this section:

1. Microbiology:

- a. Microorganisms, viruses, bacteria, fungi;
- b. Transmission cycle of infectious diseases; and
- c. Characteristics of antimicrobial agents.

2. Immunization;

- a. Types of immunizations;
- b. Hepatitis A—G transmission and immunization;
- c. HIV/AIDS;
- d. Tetanus, streptococcal, zoonotic, tuberculosis, pneumococcal, and influenza;
- e. Measles, mumps, and rubella;
- f. Vaccines and immunization; and
- g. General preventative measures to be taken to protect the body piercer and client.

3. Sanitation and disinfection:

a. Definition of terms:

- (1) Sterilization;
- (2) Disinfection and disinfectant;
- (3) Sterilizer or sterilant;
- (4) Antiseptic;
- (5) Germicide;
- (6) Decontamination; and
- (7) Sanitation;

b. The use of steam sterilization equipment and techniques;

c. The use of chemical agents, antiseptics, disinfectants, and fumigants;

d. The use of sanitation equipment;

e. Pre-service sanitation procedure; and

f. Post-service sanitation procedure.

4. Safety:

a. Proper needle handling and disposal;

b. How to avoid overexposure to chemicals;

c. The use of Material Safety Data Sheets;

d. Blood spill procedures;

e. Equipment and instrument storage; and

f. First aid and CPR.

5. Blood borne pathogen standards:

a. OSHA and CDC blood borne pathogen standards;

b. Control Plan for blood borne pathogens;

c. Exposure Control Plan for Body Piercers;

d. Overview of compliance requirements; and

e. Disorders and when not to service a client.

6. Professional standards:

a. History of body piercing;

b. Ethics;

c. Recordkeeping:

- (1) Client health history;
- (2) Consent forms; and
- (3) HIPAA Standards (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 Privacy Rule);

d. Preparing station, making appointments, salon ethics:

- (1) Maintaining professional appearance, notifying clients of schedule changes; and
- (2) Promoting services of the salon and establishing clientele;

e. Salon management:

- (1) Licensing requirements; and
- (2) Taxes; and

f. Supplies:

- (1) Usages;
- (2) Ordering; and
- (3) Storage.

7. Body piercing:

- a. Client consultation;
- b. Client health information;
- c. Client disclosure form;
- d. Client preparation;
- e. Sanitation and safety precautions;
- f. Implement selection and use;
- g. Proper use of equipment;
- h. Material selection and use;
- i. Grade of jewelry; and
- j. Metals to use.

8. Body-piercing procedures:

- a. Ear lobe;
- b. Helix—ear;
- c. Concha—ear;
- d. Tragus—ear;
- e. Tongue;

- f. Navel;
- g. Eyebrow;
- h. Lip;
- i. Septum;
- j. Nostril;
- k. Male nipple;
- l. Female nipple;
- m. Monroe (face cheek);
- n. Prince Albert (male genitalia);
- o. Frenum (male genitalia);
- p. Clitoral hoods (female genitalia); and
- q. Labias (female genitalia).

9. Virginia body-piercing laws and regulations.

Historical Notes

Derived from [Volume 23, Issue 12](#), eff. April 1, 2007.

18 VAC 41-60-170. Body-Piercing Hours of Instruction and Performances

A. Curriculum requirements specified in [18VAC41-60-160](#) shall be taught over a minimum of 1,500 hours as follows:

1. 350 hours shall be devoted to theory pertaining to subdivisions 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6 of [18VAC41-60-160](#);
2. 150 hours shall be devoted to theory pertaining to subdivision 3 of [18VAC41-60-160](#); and
3. The remaining 1,000 hours shall be devoted to practical training and the following performances pertaining to subdivision 7 of [18VAC41-60-160](#):

Body-Piercing Performances

ear lobe	minimum of 5
helix - ear	minimum of 5
concha - ear	minimum of 5
tragus - ear	minimum of 5
tongue	minimum of 5

navel	minimum of 5
eyebrow	minimum of 5
lip	minimum of 5
septum	minimum of 5
nostril	minimum of 5
additional piercings of choice	minimum of 50
Total	100

B. An approved body-piercing apprenticeship program may conduct an assessment of an apprentice's competence in the theory and practical requirements for body piercing and, based on the assessment, give a maximum of 500 hours of credit towards the requirements in subdivisions A 1 and A 3 of this section. No credit shall be allowed for the 150 hours required in subdivision A 2 of this section.

Historical Notes

Derived from [Volume 23, Issue 12](#), eff. April 1, 2007.

PART VI.

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE.

18 VAC 41-60-180. Display of License.

A. Each body-piercing salon owner or body-piercing ear only salon owner shall ensure that all current licenses issued by the board shall be displayed in the reception area of the salon in plain view of the public. Duplicate licenses shall be posted in a like manner in every salon location where the licensee provides services.

B. Each body-piercing salon or body-piercing ear only salon owner shall ensure that no licensee performs any service beyond the scope of practice for the applicable license.

C. Each body-piercing salon or body-piercing ear only salon owner shall offer to licensees the full series of Hepatitis B vaccine.

D. Each body-piercing salon or body-piercing ear only salon owner shall maintain a record for each licensee of:

1. Proof of completion of the full series of Hepatitis B vaccine;
2. Proof of immunity by blood titer; or
3. Written declaration of refusal of the owner's offer of a full series of Hepatitis B vaccine.

E. All licensees shall operate under the name in which the license is issued.

Historical Notes

Derived from [Volume 23, Issue 12](#), eff. April 1, 2007.

18 VAC 41-60-190. Physical Facilities.

A. A body-piercing salon or body-piercing ear only salon must be in a permanent building, which must be in a location permissible under local zoning codes, if any. If applicable, the body-piercing salon or body-piercing ear only salon shall be separated from any living quarters by complete floor to ceiling partitioning and shall contain no access to living quarters.

B. The body-piercing salon, body-piercing ear only salon, or temporary location shall be maintained in a clean and orderly manner.

C. A body-piercing salon, body-piercing ear only salon, or temporary location shall have a blood spill clean-up kit in the work area.

D. Work surfaces in a body-piercing salon, body-piercing ear only salon, or temporary location shall be cleaned with a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered, hospital grade disinfectant. Surfaces that come in contact with blood or other body fluids shall be immediately disinfected with an EPA-registered germicide solution. Appropriate personal protective equipment shall be worn during cleaning and disinfecting procedures.

E. In a body-piercing salon, body-piercing ear only salon, or temporary location, cabinets or containers for the storage of instruments, single-use articles, and other utensils shall be provided for each operator and shall be maintained in a sanitary manner.

F. In a body-piercing salon, body-piercing ear only salon, or temporary location, bulk single-use articles shall be commercially packaged and handled in such a way as to protect the articles from contamination.

G. In a body-piercing salon, body-piercing ear only salon, or temporary location, all materials applied to the human skin shall be from single-use articles or transferred from bulk containers to single use containers and shall be disposed of after each use.

H. In a body-piercing salon or body-piercing ear only salon, the walls, ceilings, and floors shall be kept in good repair. The body-piercing area shall be constructed of smooth, hard, surfaces that are nonporous, free of open holes or cracks, light colored, and easily cleaned. New physical facilities shall not include any dark-colored surfaces in the body-piercing area. Existing physical facilities with dark-colored surfaces in the body-piercing area shall replace the dark-colored surfaces with light-colored surfaces whenever the facilities are extensively remodeled or upon relocation of the business entity.

I. A body-piercing salon, body-piercing ear only salon, or temporary location shall have adequate lighting of at least 50 foot-candles of illumination in the body-piercing and sterilization areas.

J. In a body-piercing salon, body-piercing ear only salon, or temporary location, adequate mechanical ventilation shall be provided.

K. A body-piercing salon, body-piercing ear only salon, or temporary location shall be equipped with hand-cleaning facilities for its personnel with unobstructed access to the body-piercing area or body-piercing ear only area such that the body piercer or body piercer ear only can return to the area without having to touch anything with his hands. Hand-cleaning facilities shall be equipped either with hot and cold or tempered running water under pressure and liquid germicidal soap or with a sanitizing solution to clean hands. Hand-cleaning facilities shall be equipped with single-use towels or mechanical hand drying

devices and a covered refuse container. Such facilities shall be kept clean and in good repair. All facilities must have running water and soap accessible for cleaning of hands contaminated by body fluids.

L. Animals are not permitted in the body-piercing salon, body-piercing ear only salon, or temporary location except for guide or service animals accompanying persons with disabilities or nonmammalian animals in enclosed glass containers such as fish aquariums, which shall be outside of the body-piercing area or sterilization area. No animals are allowed in the body-piercing area, body-piercing ear only area or sterilization area.

M. In a body-piercing salon, body-piercing ear only salon, or temporary location, the use of tobacco products and consumption of alcoholic beverages shall be prohibited in the body-piercing area, body-piercing ear only area or sterilization area.

N. In a body-piercing salon, body-piercing ear only salon, or temporary location, no food or drink will be stored or consumed in the body-piercing area, body-piercing ear only area, or sterilization area.

O. In a body-piercing salon, body-piercing ear only salon, or temporary location, if body-piercing or body-piercing ear only is performed where cosmetology services are provided, it shall be performed in an area that is separate and enclosed.

P. All steam sterilizers shall be biological spore tested at least monthly.

Q. Biological spore tests shall be verified through an independent laboratory.

R. Biological spore test records shall be retained for a period of three years and made available upon request.

S. Steam sterilizers shall be used only for instruments used by the salon's employees.

Historical Notes

Derived from [Volume 23, Issue 12](#), eff. April 1, 2007; amended, Virginia Register [Volume 39, Issue 22](#), eff. September 1, 2023.

18 VAC 41-60-200. Body Piercer and Body Piercer Ear Only Responsibilities.

A. All body piercers and body piercers ear only shall provide to the responsible management one of the following:

1. Proof of completion of the full series of Hepatitis B vaccine;
2. Proof of immunity by blood titer; or
3. Written declaration of refusal of the responsible management offer of a full series of Hepatitis B vaccine.

B. All body piercers and body piercers ear only shall wear clean outer garments, maintain a high degree of personal cleanliness, and conform to hygienic practices while on duty.

C. All body piercers and body piercers ear only shall clean their hands thoroughly using hot or tempered water with a liquid germicidal soap or use sanitizing solution to clean hands before and after body piercing and as necessary to remove contaminants.

D. All body piercers and body piercers ear only must wear single-use examination gloves while assembling instruments and another pair of single-use examination gloves while providing piercing services.

E. Each time there is an interruption in the service, each time the gloves become torn or perforated or become contaminated, or whenever the ability of the gloves to function as a barrier is compromised:

1. Gloves shall be removed and disposed of; and
2. Hands shall be cleaned and a fresh pair of gloves used.

F. Body piercers and body piercers ear only shall use standard precautions while providing piercing services. A body piercer or body piercer ear only diagnosed with a communicable disease shall provide to the Department of Professional and Occupation Regulations a written statement from a health care practitioner that the body piercer's condition no longer poses a threat to public health.

G. Body piercers and body piercers ear only with draining lesions on their hands or face will not be permitted to work until cleared by a health-care professional.

H. The area of the client's skin to be pierced shall be cleaned with an approved germicidal soap or antiseptic product according to label directions.

I. The external skin of the client to be pierced shall be cleaned with an approved germicidal soap or antiseptic product according to the label directions. In the case of oral piercings, the operator shall provide the individual with antiseptic mouthwash in a single-use cup and shall ensure that the individual utilizes the mouthwash provided. In the case of a lip, labret, or cheek piercing, procedures described in this subsection for both skin and oral piercings shall be followed.

J. If shaving is required, razors shall be single-use and disposed of in a puncture-resistant container.

K. Each body piercer or body piercer ear only performing any piercing procedures in the salon shall have the education, training and experience, or any combination thereof, to practice aseptic technique and prevent the transmission of bloodborne pathogens. All procedures shall be performed using aseptic technique.

L. An individual, single-use, pre-sterilized piercing needle shall be used for each client. Single-use disposable instruments shall be disposed of in a puncture-resistant container.

M. Used, nondisposable instruments shall be kept in a separate, puncture-resistant container until brush scrubbed in hot water soap and then sterilized by autoclaving. Contaminated instruments shall be handled with disposable gloves.

N. Used nondisposable instruments that are ultrasonically cleaned shall be rinsed under running hot water prior to being placed in the used instrument container.

O. Used nondisposable instruments that are not ultrasonically cleaned prior to being placed in the used instrument container shall be kept in a germicidal or soap solution until brush scrubbed in hot water and soap and sterilized by autoclaving.

P. The ultrasonic unit shall be sanitized daily with a germicidal solution.

Q. Nondisposable instruments shall be sterilized and shall be handled and stored in a manner to prevent contamination. Instruments to be sterilized shall be sealed in bags made specifically for the purpose of

autoclave sterilization and shall include the date of sterilization. If nontransparent bags are utilized, the bag shall also list the contents.

R. Autoclave sterilization bags with a color code indicator that changes color upon proper sterilization shall be utilized during the autoclave sterilization process.

S. Nondisposable instruments shall be placed in the autoclave in a manner to allow live steam to circulate around them.

T. Contaminated disposable and single-use items shall be disposed of in accordance with federal and state regulations regarding disposal of biological hazardous materials.

U. The manufacturer's written instruction of the autoclave shall be followed.

Historical Notes

Derived from [Volume 23, Issue 12](#), eff. April 1, 2007; amended, Virginia Register [Volume 39, Issue 22](#), eff. September 1, 2023.

18 VAC 41-60-210. Body-Piercing Client Qualifications, Disclosures, and Records.

A. Except as permitted in § [18.2-371.3](#) of the Code of Virginia, a client must be a minimum of 18 years of age and shall present at the time of the body piercing a valid, government-issued, positive identification card including, but not limited to, a driver's license, passport, or military identification. The identification must contain a photograph of the individual and a printed date of birth.

B. The body piercer shall verify and document in the permanent client record the client's age, date of birth, and the type of identification provided.

C. No person may be body pierced who appears to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

D. Body piercing shall not be performed on any skin surface that manifests any evidence of unhealthy conditions such as rashes, boils, infections, or abrasions.

E. Before receiving a body piercing, each client and client's parent or guardian, if applicable, shall be informed verbally and in writing, using the client disclosure form prescribed by the board, about the possible risk and dangers associated with the application of each body piercing. Signatures of the client, the client's parent or guardian, if applicable, and the body piercer shall be required on the client disclosure form to acknowledge receipt of both the verbal and written disclosures. Each client and client's parent or guardian, if applicable, shall be informed verbally and in writing of aftercare for each piercing.

F. The body-piercing salon or temporary location shall maintain proper records for each client. The information shall be permanently recorded and made available for examination by the department or authorized agent. Records shall be maintained at the body-piercing salon for at least two years following the date of the last entry. The temporary location client records shall be maintained by the license holder. The permanent records shall include the following:

1. The name, address, and telephone number of the client;
2. The date body piercing was performed;
3. The client's age, date of birth, and a copy of the positive identification provided to the body piercer;
4. The specific type of jewelry used for the piercing and, when available, the manufacturer's catalogue or identification number for the type of jewelry used;

5. The location on the body where the body piercing was performed;
6. The name of the body piercer;
7. A statement that the client has received a copy of applicable written care instructions and that the client has read and understands the instructions; and
8. The signature of the client and, if applicable, parent or guardian.

Historical Notes

Derived from [Volume 23, Issue 12](#), eff. April 1, 2007.

18 VAC 41-60-220. Grounds for license revocation or suspension or probation; denial of application, renewal or reinstatement; or imposition of a monetary penalty.

The board may, in considering the totality of the circumstances, fine any licensee and suspend, place on probation or revoke or refuse to renew or reinstate any license, or deny any application issued under the provisions of Chapter 7 (§ [54.1-700](#) et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia and this chapter if the board finds that the licensee or applicant:

1. Is incompetent or negligent in practice, or incapable mentally or physically, as those terms are generally understood in the profession, to (i) practice as a body piercer or body piercer ear only, or (ii) operate a body piercing salon;
2. Is convicted of fraud or deceit in the practice body piercing or body piercing ear only;
3. Attempted to obtain, obtained, renewed, or reinstated a license by false or fraudulent representation;
4. Violates or induces others to violate, or cooperates with others in violating, any of the provisions of this chapter or Chapter 7 (§ [54.1-700](#) et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia or any local ordinance or regulation governing standards of health and sanitation of the establishment in which body piercers or body piercers ear only may practice or offer to practice;
5. Offers, gives, or promises anything of value or benefit to any federal, state, or local employee for the purpose of influencing that employee to circumvent in the performance of the employee's duties any federal, state, or local law, regulation, or ordinance governing body piercing as defined in § [54.1-700](#) of the Code of Virginia;
6. Fails to respond to the board or any of its agents or provides false, misleading, or incomplete information to an inquiry by the board or any of its agents;
7. Fails or refuses to allow the board or any of its agents to inspect during reasonable hours any licensed salon for compliance with provisions of Chapter 7 (§ [54.1-700](#) et seq.) or this chapter;
8. Fails to produce, upon request or demand of the board or any of its agents, any document, book, record, or copy thereof in a licensee's or responsible management possession or maintained in accordance with this chapter;
9. Fails to notify the board of a change of name or address in writing within 30 days of the change for each and every license.
10. Makes any misrepresentation or publishes or causes to be published any advertisement that is false, deceptive, or misleading;
11. Fails to notify the board in writing within 30 days of the suspension, revocation, or surrender of a license, certificate, or permit in connection with a disciplinary action in any other jurisdiction or of any license, certificate, or permit which has been the subject of disciplinary action in any other jurisdiction;

12. Has been convicted or found guilty, regardless of the manner of adjudication in Virginia or any other jurisdiction of the United States, of a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, sexual offense, non-marijuana drug distribution, or physical injury or any felony, there being no appeal pending therefrom or the time for appeal having elapsed. Review of convictions shall be subject to the requirements of § [54.1-204](#) of the Code of Virginia. Any plea of nolo contendere shall be considered a conviction for purposes of this subdivision. The record of a conviction certified or authenticated in such form as to be admissible in evidence under the laws of the jurisdiction where convicted shall be admissible as prima facie evidence of such conviction or guilt;
13. Fails to inform the board in writing within 30 days of pleading guilty or nolo contendere or being convicted or found guilty regardless of adjudication of any convictions as stated in subdivision 12 of this section;
14. Allows, as responsible management of a salon, a person who has not obtained a license to practice as a body piercer or body piercer ear only unless the person is duly enrolled as an apprentice;
15. Fails to take sufficient measures to prevent transmission of communicable or infectious diseases or fails to comply with sanitary requirements provided for in this chapter or any local, state, or federal law or regulation governing the standards of health and sanitation for the practice of body piercing, or the operation of body-piercing salon or body-piercing ear only salon; or
16. Fails to comply with all procedures established by the board and the testing service with regard to conduct at any board examination.

Historical Notes

Derived from Virginia Register [Volume 23, Issue 12](#), eff. April 1, 2007; amended, Virginia Register [Volume 29, Issue 26](#), eff. November 1, 2013; [Volume 39, Issue 22](#), eff. September 1, 2023.

Included in this booklet for your convenience are relevant excerpts from the Code of Virginia. Please note that the Virginia General Assembly, not the Board for Barbers and Cosmetology, is responsible for creating and amending the statutes contained in the Code of Virginia. It is your responsibility to stay informed of revisions to the regulations and the statutes governing your profession or occupation. Please consult the General Assembly or your local library for annual changes.

Code of Virginia

Title 54.1 - PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS.

Chapter 7 - Barbers and Cosmetologists

§ 54.1-700. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Barber" means any person who shaves, shapes or trims the beard; cuts, singes, or dyes the hair or applies lotions thereto; applies, treats or massages the face, neck or scalp with oils, creams, lotions, cosmetics, antiseptics, powders, clays or other preparations in connection with shaving, cutting or trimming the hair or beard, and practices barbering for compensation and when such services are not performed for the treatment of disease.

"Barbering" means any one or any combination of the following acts, when done on the human body for compensation and not for the treatment of disease, shaving, shaping and trimming the beard; cutting, singeing, or dyeing the hair or applying lotions thereto; applications, treatment or massages of the face, neck or scalp with oils, creams, lotions, cosmetics, antiseptics, powders, clays, or other preparations in connection with shaving, cutting or trimming the hair or a beard. The term "barbering" shall not apply to

the acts described hereinabove when performed by any person in his home if such service is not offered to the public.

"Barber instructor" means any person who has been certified by the Board as having completed an approved curriculum and who meets the competency standards of the Board as an instructor of barbering.

"Barbershop" means any establishment or place of business within which the practice of barbering is engaged in or carried on by one or more barbers.

"Board" means the Board for Barbers and Cosmetology.

"Body piercer" means any person who for remuneration penetrates the skin of a person to make a hole, mark, or scar, generally permanent in nature.

"Body-piercing" means the act of penetrating the skin of a person to make a hole, mark, or scar, generally permanent in nature.

"Body-piercing salon" means any place in which a fee is charged for the act of penetrating the skin of a person to make a hole, mark, or scar, generally permanent in nature.

"Body-piercing school" means a place or establishment licensed by the Board to accept and train students in body-piercing.

"Cosmetologist" means any person who administers cosmetic treatments; manicures or pedicures the nails of any person; arranges, dresses, curls, waves, cuts, shapes, singes, waxes, tweezes, shaves, bleaches, colors, relaxes, straightens, or performs similar work, upon human hair, or a wig or hairpiece, by any means, including hands or mechanical or electrical apparatus or appliances unless such acts as adjusting, combing, or brushing prestyled wigs or hairpieces do not alter the prestyled nature of the wig or hairpiece, and practices cosmetology for compensation. The term "cosmetologist" shall not include hair braiding upon human hair, or a wig or hairpiece.

"Cosmetology" includes, but is not limited to, the following practices: administering cosmetic treatments; manicuring or pedicuring the nails of any person; arranging, dressing, curling, waving, cutting, shaping, singeing, waxing, tweezing, shaving, bleaching, coloring, relaxing, straightening, or similar work, upon human hair, or a wig or hairpiece, by any means, including hands or mechanical or electrical apparatus or appliances, but shall not include hair braiding upon human hair, or a wig or hairpiece, or such acts as adjusting, combing, or brushing prestyled wigs or hairpieces when such acts do not alter the prestyled nature of the wig or hairpiece.

"Cosmetology instructor" means a person who has been certified by the Board as having completed an approved curriculum and who meets the competency standards of the Board as an instructor of cosmetology.

"Cosmetology salon" means any commercial establishment, residence, vehicle or other establishment, place or event wherein cosmetology is offered or practiced on a regular basis for compensation and may include the training of apprentices under regulations of the Board.

"Esthetician" means a person who engages in the practice of esthetics for compensation.

"Esthetics" includes, but is not limited to, the following practices of administering cosmetic treatments to enhance or improve the appearance of the skin: cleansing, toning, performing effleurage or other related movements, stimulating, exfoliating, or performing any other similar procedure on the skin of the human body or scalp by means of cosmetic preparations, treatments, or any nonlaser device, whether by electrical, mechanical, or manual means, for care of the skin; applying make-up or eyelashes to any person, tinting or perming eyelashes and eyebrows, and lightening hair on the body except the scalp; and

removing unwanted hair from the body of any person by the use of any nonlaser device, by tweezing, or by use of chemical or mechanical means. However, "esthetics" is not a healing art and shall not include any practice, activity, or treatment that constitutes the practice of medicine, osteopathic medicine, or chiropractic. The terms "healing arts," "practice of medicine," "practice of osteopathic medicine," and "practice of chiropractic" shall mean the same as those terms are defined in § 54.1-2900.

"Esthetics instructor" means a licensed esthetician who has been certified by the Board as having completed an approved curriculum and who meets the competency standards of the Board as an instructor of esthetics.

"Esthetics spa" means any commercial establishment, residence, vehicle, or other establishment, place, or event wherein esthetics is offered or practiced on a regular basis for compensation under regulations of the Board.

"Master barber" means a licensed barber who, in addition to the practice of barbering, performs waving, shaping, bleaching, relaxing, or straightening upon human hair; performs similar work on a wig or hairpiece; or performs waxing limited to the scalp.

"Master esthetician" means a licensed esthetician who, in addition to the practice of esthetics, offers to the public for compensation, without the use of laser technology, lymphatic drainage, chemical exfoliation, or microdermabrasion, and who has met such additional requirements as determined by the Board to practice lymphatic drainage, chemical exfoliation with products other than Schedules II through VI controlled substances as defined in the Drug Control Act (§ 54.1-3400 et seq.), and microdermabrasion of the epidermis.

"Nail care" means manicuring or pedicuring natural nails or performing artificial nail services.

"Nail salon" means any commercial establishment, residence, vehicle or other establishment, place or event wherein nail care is offered or practiced on a regular basis for compensation and may include the training of apprentices under regulations of the Board.

"Nail school" means a place or establishment licensed by the board to accept and train students in nail care.

"Nail technician" means any person who for compensation manicures or pedicures natural nails, or who performs artificial nail services for compensation, or any combination thereof.

"Nail technician instructor" means a licensed nail technician who has been certified by the Board as having completed an approved curriculum and who meets the competency standards of the Board as an instructor of nail care.

"Physical (wax) depilatory" means the wax depilatory product or substance used to remove superfluous hair.

"School of cosmetology" means a place or establishment licensed by the Board to accept and train students and which offers a cosmetology curriculum approved by the Board.

"School of esthetics" means a place or establishment licensed by the Board to accept and train students and which offers an esthetics curriculum approved by the Board.

"Tattoo parlor" means any place in which tattooing is offered or practiced.

"Tattoo school" means a place or establishment licensed by the Board to accept and train students in tattooing.

"Tattooer" means any person who for remuneration practices tattooing.

"Tattooing" means the placing of designs, letters, scrolls, figures, symbols or any other marks upon or under the skin of any person with ink or any other substance, resulting in the permanent coloration of the skin, including permanent make-up or permanent jewelry, by the aid of needles or any other instrument designed to touch or puncture the skin.

"Wax technician" means any person licensed by the Board who removes hair from the hair follicle using a physical (wax) depilatory or by tweezing.

"Wax technician instructor" means a licensed wax technician who has been certified by the Board as having completed an approved curriculum and who meets the competency standards of the Board as an instructor of waxing.

"Waxing" means the temporary removal of superfluous hair from the hair follicle on any area of the human body through the use of a physical (wax) depilatory or by tweezing.

"Waxing salon" means any commercial establishment, residence, vehicle or other establishment, place or event wherein waxing is offered or practiced on a regular basis for compensation and may include the training of apprentices under regulations of the Board.

"Waxing school" means a place or establishment licensed by the Board to accept and train students in waxing.

1962, c. 639, § 1, § 54-83.2; 1966, c. 610; 1973, c. 86; 1974, c. 534; 1988, c. 765; 2000, c. [726](#); 2002, cc. [797](#), [869](#); 2003, c. [600](#); 2005, c. [829](#); 2012, cc. [803](#), [835](#); 2017, c. [390](#); 2018, cc. [219](#), [231](#), [237](#), [404](#).

The chapters of the acts of assembly referenced in the historical citation at the end of this section may not constitute a comprehensive list of such chapters and may exclude chapters whose provisions have expired.

§ 54.1-701. Exemptions.

The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to:

1. Persons authorized by the laws of the Commonwealth to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathy or chiropractic;
2. Registered nurses licensed to practice in the Commonwealth;
3. Persons employed in state or local penal or correctional institutions, rehabilitation centers, sanatoria, or institutions for care and treatment of individuals with mental illness or intellectual disability, or for care and treatment of geriatric patients, as barbers, cosmetologists, wax technicians, nail technicians, estheticians, barber instructors, cosmetology instructors, wax technician instructors, nail technician instructors, or esthetics instructors who practice only on inmates of or patients in such sanatoria or institutions;
4. Persons licensed as funeral directors or embalmers in the Commonwealth;
5. Gratuitous services as a barber, nail technician, cosmetologist, wax technician, tattooer, body piercer, or esthetician;
6. Students enrolled in an approved school taking a course in barbering, nail care, cosmetology, waxing, tattooing, body-piercing, or esthetics;
7. Persons working in a cosmetology salon whose duties are expressly confined to the blow drying, arranging, dressing, curling, or cleansing of human hair;
8. Apprentices serving in a barbershop, nail salon, waxing salon, cosmetology salon, or esthetics spa licensed by the Board in accordance with the Board's regulations;

9. Schools of barbering, nail care, waxing, or cosmetology in public schools; and

10. Persons whose activities are confined solely to applying make-up, including such activities that are ancillary to applying make-up.

1962, c. 639, § 4, § 54-83.5; 1968, c. 622; 1988, c. 765; 2000, c. [726](#); 2002, cc. [797](#), [869](#); 2003, c. [600](#); 2005, c. [829](#); 2012, cc. [476](#), [507](#), [803](#), [835](#); 2018, c. [404](#).

The chapters of the acts of assembly referenced in the historical citation at the end of this section may not constitute a comprehensive list of such chapters and may exclude chapters whose provisions have expired.

§ 54.1-702. Board for Barbers and Cosmetology; membership; officers; quorum.

The Board for Barbers and Cosmetology shall be composed of 10 members as follows: two members shall be licensed barbers, one of whom may be an owner or operator of a barber school; two members shall be licensed cosmetologists, at least one of whom shall be a salon owner and one of whom may be an owner or operator of a cosmetology school; one member shall be a licensed nail technician or a licensed cosmetologist engaged primarily in the practice of nail care, each of whom shall have been licensed in their respective professions for at least three years immediately prior to appointment; one member shall be either a licensed tattooer or a licensed body piercer; two members shall be licensed estheticians, at least one of whom shall be an esthetics salon owner and one of whom may be an owner, operator, or designated representative of a licensed esthetics school; and two citizen members. The terms of Board members shall be four years. No member shall serve for more than two full successive terms. The Board shall elect a chairman and a vice-chairman. A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

1962, c. 639, § 21, § 54-83.22; 1974, c. 534; 1979, c. 327; 1981, c. 447; 1988, cc. 42, 765; 2000, c. [726](#); 2002, c. [869](#); 2004, c. [945](#); 2005, c. [829](#); 2010, c. [91](#).

The chapters of the acts of assembly referenced in the historical citation at the end of this section may not constitute a comprehensive list of such chapters and may exclude chapters whose provisions have expired.

§ 54.1-703. License required.

No person shall offer to engage in or engage in barbering, cosmetology, nail care, waxing, tattooing, body-piercing, or esthetics without a valid license issued by the Board, except as provided in [§ 54.1-701](#).

1979, c. 408, § 54-83.22:1; 1988, c. 765; 2000, c. [726](#); 2002, cc. [797](#), [869](#); 2003, c. [600](#); 2005, c. [829](#); 2012, cc. [803](#), [835](#).

The chapters of the acts of assembly referenced in the historical citation at the end of this section may not constitute a comprehensive list of such chapters and may exclude chapters whose provisions have expired.

§ 54.1-703.1. Waiver of examination; wax technicians.

The Board shall waive the examination requirements for licensure as a wax technician for any individual who (i) makes application for licensure between July 1, 2002, and July 1, 2003; (ii) otherwise complies with Board regulations relating to moral turpitude; and (iii) meets any of the following conditions:

1. Has at least three years of documented work experience as a wax technician that is deemed satisfactory by the Board;
2. Has completed a training program that is deemed satisfactory by the Board; or

3. Holds an unexpired certificate of registration, certification, or license as a wax technician issued to him on the basis of comparable requirements by a proper authority of a state, territory, or possession of the United States or the District of Columbia.

2002, c. [797](#).

The chapters of the acts of assembly referenced in the historical citation at the end of this section may not constitute a comprehensive list of such chapters and may exclude chapters whose provisions have expired.

§ 54.1-703.2. Repealed.

Repealed by Acts 2012, cc. [803](#) and [835](#), cl. 54.

The chapters of the acts of assembly referenced in the historical citation at the end of this section may not constitute a comprehensive list of such chapters and may exclude chapters whose provisions have expired.

§ 54.1-703.3. Waiver of examination; estheticians.

The Board shall waive the examination requirements for licensure as an esthetician or master esthetician for any individual who (i) makes application for licensure by July 31, 2009; (ii) otherwise complies with Board regulations relating to moral turpitude; and (iii) meets any of the following conditions:

1. Has at least three years of documented work experience as an esthetician or a master esthetician completed prior to July 1, 2008, that is deemed satisfactory by the Board;
2. Has completed a training program prior to July 1, 2008, that is deemed satisfactory by the Board; or
3. Holds an unexpired certificate of registration, certification, or license as an esthetician or a master esthetician issued to him prior to July 1, 2008, on the basis of comparable requirements by a proper authority of a state, territory, or possession of the United States, or the District of Columbia.

2005, c. [829](#); 2009, cc. [166](#), [328](#).

The chapters of the acts of assembly referenced in the historical citation at the end of this section may not constitute a comprehensive list of such chapters and may exclude chapters whose provisions have expired.

§ 54.1-704. Temporary licenses.

The Board may issue a temporary license to any person who is eligible for examination. Persons issued a temporary license shall be subject to the regulations of the Board.

The Board shall promulgate regulations consistent with this section to permit individuals to be granted temporary licenses for a specified period of time.

1984, c. 220, § 54-83.22:2; 1988, c. 765; 2000, c. [726](#).

The chapters of the acts of assembly referenced in the historical citation at the end of this section may not constitute a comprehensive list of such chapters and may exclude chapters whose provisions have expired.

§ 54.1-704.1. License required for barbershop, cosmetology salon, nail care salon, waxing salon, tattoo parlor, body-piercing salon, and esthetics spa.

No individual or entity shall operate a barbershop, cosmetology salon, nail care salon, waxing salon, tattoo parlor, body-piercing salon, or esthetics spa without a valid license issued by the Board.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to a licensed barber, cosmetologist, nail technician, waxing technician, tattooer, body piercer, or esthetician who does not have an ownership interest in a licensed

barbershop, cosmetology salon, nail care salon, waxing salon, tattoo parlor, body-piercing salon, or esthetics spa in which he is employed.

2000, c. [726](#); 2002, cc. [797](#), [869](#); 2003, c. [600](#); 2005, c. [829](#); 2012, cc. [803](#), [835](#).

The chapters of the acts of assembly referenced in the historical citation at the end of this section may not constitute a comprehensive list of such chapters and may exclude chapters whose provisions have expired.

§ 54.1-704.2. License required for schools of barbering, cosmetology, nail care, waxing, tattooing, body-piercing, or esthetics.

Except as provided in § [54.1-701](#), no person, firm or corporation shall operate or attempt to operate a school of barbering, cosmetology, nail care, waxing, tattooing, body-piercing, or esthetics unless licensed by the Board pursuant to its regulations.

2000, c. [726](#); 2002, cc. [797](#), [869](#); 2003, c. [600](#); 2005, c. [829](#); 2012, cc. [803](#), [835](#).

The chapters of the acts of assembly referenced in the historical citation at the end of this section may not constitute a comprehensive list of such chapters and may exclude chapters whose provisions have expired.

§ 54.1-705. Inspections.

A. Inspectors and sanitarians of the State Department of Health, or an affiliated local health department, may inspect each barbershop, cosmetology salon, waxing salon, nail care salon, tattoo parlor, body-piercing salon, and esthetics spa in the Commonwealth regularly. Any infractions shall be immediately reported to the Health Department and the Director of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation for disciplinary action.

B. The Board may inspect barbershops, barber schools, cosmetology salons and schools, waxing salons and schools, nail care salons and schools, tattoo parlors and schools, body-piercing salons and schools, and esthetics spas and schools for compliance with regulations promulgated by the Board.

C. The Board shall specify procedures for enforcement of compliance with the disease control and disclosure requirements of § [18.2-371.3](#), including unannounced inspections by appropriate personnel.

D. The Board or the Virginia Department of Health, or an affiliated local health department, may regulate the sanitary condition of the personnel, equipment and premises of tattoo parlors and body-piercing salons.

1962, c. 639, § 26, § 54-83.27; 1974, c. 534; 1988, c. 765; 1993, c. 499; 2000, c. [726](#); 2002, cc. [797](#), [869](#); 2003, c. [600](#); 2005, c. [829](#); 2012, cc. [803](#), [835](#).

The chapters of the acts of assembly referenced in the historical citation at the end of this section may not constitute a comprehensive list of such chapters and may exclude chapters whose provisions have expired.

§ 54.1-706. Different requirements for licensure.

A. The Board shall have the discretion to impose different requirements for licensure for the practice of barbering, cosmetology, nail care, waxing, tattooing, body-piercing, and esthetics.

B. The Board shall issue a license to practice as a master barber in the Commonwealth to:

1. An individual who holds a valid, unexpired license as a barber issued by the Board prior to December 8, 2017; or

2. An applicant who has successfully (i) completed the educational requirements as required by the Board, (ii) completed the experience requirements as required by the Board, and (iii) passed the examination approved by the Board.

2000, c. [726](#); 2002, cc. [797](#), [869](#); 2003, c. [600](#); 2005, c. [829](#); 2012, cc. [803](#), [835](#); 2018, cc. [231](#), [237](#).
