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TTY: 771
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March 31, 2026

The Honorable Melissa A. Murray, Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
State House
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: S 2858 – An Act Relating to Businesses and Professions -- Eyelash Services
Licensing and Regulation Act**

Dear Chair Murray:

Please accept this letter with concerns regarding S 2858, legislation that would create a new license for eyelash service technicians, require permits for eyelash businesses, establish training and exam standards, authorize RIDOH to enforce and fine, and impose \$500 penalties for unlicensed practice. This act would take effect on January 1, 2027. The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) cannot implement the provisions of the bill without adequate funding.

[Most states](#) require a person to be a licensed cosmetologist or an esthetician to perform eyelash extensions. There are some states that have further requirements/licenses for eyelash technicians. Connecticut is the only New England state that has an eyelash technician license. Most states require a cosmetology/esthetician license and proof of certification to perform eyelash extensions.

The bill requires applicants to submit applications and the \$100 application fee to the Division of Professional Regulation within the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training (DLT) rather than to RIDOH. The bill also appears to place licensing provisions in DLT; however, enforcement responsibilities, including inspections and fining authority are with RIDOH.

Additionally, with respect Section 5-97-3(c), the bill does not directly reference that RIDOH has the power to grant licenses. In Section 5-97-4, the bill is not clear on when inspections need to occur.

Without appropriate funding, RIDOH would not be able to implement the provisions outlined in the bill. Currently, RIDOH has only one FTE managing RIDOH's entire cosmetology, barber, and esthetician licensing and inspection program, which includes more than 10,000 licenses for individuals and facilities. RIDOH would need a new FTE to conduct this work at an annual cost of \$157,315 annually, not including future increases in salary and fringe.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation. We are happy to work with the sponsor on amendments to ensure that this legislation supports intended goals and is adequately financed to ensure that the provisions can be implemented.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome M. Larkin" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jerome M. Larkin, MD
Director

CC: The Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
The Honorable Lammis J. Vargas
Kristen Silvia, Director of Legislation and Deputy Chief of Staff
Patricia Resende, Director of Senate Policy