

Summary of H.684 (OPR Bill),
as Proposed to be Amended by Senate Government Operations
For Senate Finance Review

I. Overview

The OPR Bill is an annual bill that generally makes amendments to the statutes governing the approximately 50 professions regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation (OPR), as well as the statutes governing how OPR regulates those professions.

In this year's OPR Bill, there are two main changes proposed that would affect professional licensing fees. Those two changes involve transitioning the *barbering and cosmetology professions* and the *funeral services professions* from a board model to an advisor model.¹

In both cases in this year's bill, the fees for those professions would either remain the same or be **reduced**, and would continue to be on a two-year renewal cycle. As with other advisor model professions, the fees would be moved from the professions' Title 26 statutes to OPR's advisor model fees set forth in [3 V.S.A. § 125\(b\)](#). See [Sec. 2](#) on pg. 3.

II. Barbering and Cosmetology

There are four distinct license types in the barbering and cosmetology professions: 1) barbers; 2) cosmetologists; 3) nail technicians; and 4) estheticians. There are also licensing requirements for 5) barbering and cosmetology *schools* and 6) barbering and cosmetology *shops*.

In [Sec. 12](#), in 26 V.S.A. § 287, on pg. 24, the current law fees would be struck and replaced with the new fees in [Sec. 2](#). Via the [Sec. 26\(1\)\(A\)](#) effective date on pg. 78, these fee changes would occur on **January 1, 2019**, which via [Sec. 26\(2\)](#) is also the date on which these professions would become advisor model professions.

Profession	Current Law Fees		Proposed Fees on 1/1/19	
	<i>Initial App.</i>	<i>Renewal</i>	<i>Initial App.</i>	<i>Renewal</i>
Barber	\$110	\$130	\$100	\$130
Cosmetologist	\$110	\$130	\$100	\$130
Nail Technician	\$110	\$130	\$100	\$130
Esthetician	\$110	\$130	\$100	\$130
School	\$330	\$330	\$300	\$300
Shop	\$330	\$225	\$300	\$200

¹ Under a board model, a licensing board — normally made up of professional peers and public members — administers professional standards. Under an advisor model, the Secretary of State appoints several professional advisors to give advice to the Director of OPR in administering those standards.

III. Funeral Services

There are four distinct license types in the funeral services professions: 1) funeral directors; 2) embalmers; 3) crematory personnel; and 4) removal personnel. There are also licensing requirements for 5) funeral establishments; 6) crematory establishments; and 7) limited services establishments.

Via the Sec. 26 overall effective date, these professions' transition from board model to advisor model would take effect on July 1, 2018. However, in Sec. 15, the current law fees in 26 V.S.A. § 1256(d), starting on pg. 39, would remain in the law until that subsection (d) is repealed on **June 1, 2023** via Sec. 16 on pg. 44. Therefore, via the Sec. 26(1)(B) effective date, **June 1, 2023** is when the new funeral services' advisor fees in Sec. 2's 3 V.S.A. § 125(b) would take effect. OPR explained that maintaining the current law's fees for another two renewal cycles will help these professions pay down a deficit that exists under the current board model.

Profession	Current Law Fees		Proposed Fees on 6/1/23	
	<i>Initial App.</i>	<i>Renewal</i>	<i>Initial App.</i>	<i>Renewal</i>
Funeral director	\$70	\$350	\$70	\$280
Embalmer	\$70	\$350	\$70	\$280
Crematory personnel	\$70	\$125	\$70	\$100
Removal personnel	\$70	\$125	\$70	\$100
Funeral establishment	\$70	\$800	\$70	\$640
Crematory establishment	\$70	\$800	\$70	\$640
Ltd. services establishment	\$70	\$800	\$70	\$640