Sec. 20-234. Practice of barbering defined. The following-described practices, when done upon the head, face and neck for cosmetic purposes and done for the public, with or without compensation therefor, shall be construed as practicing the occupation of barber or master barber within the meaning of this chapter: Shaving or trimming the beard; cutting hair; styling or cutting hairpieces and wigs; giving facial and scalp massage or application of oils, creams, lotions or other preparations, either by hand or mechanical appliances; singeing, shampooing or dyeing the hair or applying hair tonic, and applying cosmetic preparations, antiseptics, powders, oils, clays or lotions to scalp, face or neck; provided nothing in this chapter shall permit any of the services or acts herein described to be used for the treatment or cure of any physical or mental disease or ailment.


History: 1969 act included as practice of barbering the styling or cutting of men's hairpieces and wigs; P.A. 80-484 added reference to master barbers and deleted "men's" as modifier of hairpieces and wigs.

See Sec. 20-248 re exempting from chapter provisions for patient practicing as master barber at Veterans' Home and for hairdresser and cosmetician license holders.

Cited. 113 C. 563.


Sec. 20-235a. Barbers, hairdressers and cosmeticians; examining board. There shall be within the Department of Public Health a Connecticut Examining Board for Barbers, Hairdressers and Cosmeticians. Said board shall consist of nine members appointed, subject to the provisions of section 4-9a, by the Governor as follows: Three master barbers, three persons who are registered hairdressers and cosmeticians, and three public members. The Governor shall appoint a chairperson from among such members. Members shall be residents of this state. No member shall be an elected official of a professional association of barbers, hairdressers or cosmeticians or have been such an official for one year immediately preceding his appointment. Said board shall meet at least once during each calendar quarter and at such other times as the chairperson deems necessary. Special meetings shall be held at the request of a majority of the board after notice in accordance with the provisions of section 1-225. A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum. Members shall not be compensated for their services. Any member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings or who fails to attend fifty per cent of all meetings held during any calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned from office. Minutes of all meetings shall be recorded by the board. No member shall participate in the affairs of the board during the pendency of any disciplinary proceedings by the board against such member. Said board shall (1) hear and decide matters concerning suspension or revocation of licensure, (2) adjudicate complaints filed against practitioners and (3) impose sanctions where appropriate.


History: P.A. 84-382 changed the composition of the board from six to nine members; June Sp. Sess. P.A. 91-12 eliminated expense reimbursement for board members; P.A. 93-381 replaced department of health services with department of public health and addiction services, effective July 1, 1993; P.A. 95-257 replaced Commissioner and Department of Public Health and Addiction Services with Commissioner and Department of Public Health, effective July 1, 1995; P.A. 98-143 added quorum provision, effective July 1, 1998.

See Sec. 4-9a for definition of “public member”.

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Sec. 20-236. Qualifications for license as barber. Licensure without examination. Barber schools. Minimum curriculum requirements. (a)(1) Any person desiring to obtain a license as a barber shall apply in writing on forms furnished by the Department of Public Health and shall pay to the department a fee of one hundred dollars. The department shall not issue a license until the applicant has made written application to the department, setting forth by affidavit that the applicant has (A) (i) successfully completed the eighth grade, (ii) completed a course of not less than one thousand hours of study in a school approved in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, or, if trained outside of Connecticut, in a barber school or college whose requirements are equivalent to those of a Connecticut barber school or college, and (iii) passed a written examination satisfactory to the department, or (B) if the applicant is an apprentice, (i) successfully completed the eighth grade, (ii) completed an apprenticeship approved by the Labor Department and conducted in accordance with sections 31-22m to 31-22u, inclusive, and (iii) passed a written examination satisfactory to the Department of Public Health. Examinations required for licensure under this chapter shall be prescribed by the department with the advice and assistance of the board. The department shall establish a passing score for examinations required under this chapter with the advice and assistance of the board. No license issued in accordance with the provisions of this chapter may be assigned or transferred to another person.

(2) Any person who holds a license at the time of application to practice the occupation of barbering in any other state, the District of Columbia or in a commonwealth or territory of the United States, and was issued such license on the basis of successful completion of a program of education and training in barbering and an examination, shall be eligible for licensing in this state and entitled to a license without examination upon payment of a fee of one hundred dollars.

(3) Any person who holds a license to practice the occupation of barbering in any other state, the District of Columbia, or in a commonwealth or territory of the United States, and has held such license for a period of not less than forty years, shall be eligible for licensure without examination. No license shall be issued under this section to any applicant against whom professional disciplinary action is pending or who is the subject of an unresolved complaint.
(b) (1) Barber schools shall obtain approval pursuant to this section prior to commencing operation. In the event that an approved school undergoes a change of ownership or location, such approval shall become void and the school shall apply for a new approval pursuant to this section. Applications for such approval shall be on forms prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Health. In the event that a school fails to comply with the provisions of this subsection, no credit toward the one thousand hours of study required pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be granted to any student for instruction received prior to the effective date of school approval.

(2) The Commissioner of Public Health, in consultation with the Connecticut Examining Board for Barbers, Hairdressers and Cosmeticians, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to prescribe minimum curriculum requirements for barber schools. The commissioner, in consultation with said board, may adopt a curriculum and procedures for the approval of barber schools, provided the commissioner prints notice of intent to adopt regulations concerning the adoption of a curriculum and procedures for the approval of barber schools in the Connecticut Law Journal not later than thirty days after the date of implementation of such curriculum and such procedures. The curriculum and procedures implemented pursuant to this section shall be valid until such time final regulations are adopted.

(c) No person applying for licensure as a barber under this chapter shall be required to submit to a state or national criminal history records check as a prerequisite to licensure.


History: 1959 act deleted stipulation that manager barber certificate be to own or manage as well as operate a shop; 1969 act raised license fees for barber and manager barber from $15 to $25; 1971 act increased fees to $30; 1972 act lowered minimum age for applicants from 18 to 18, reflecting changed age of majority; P.A. 74-113 changed expiration date of license from first day of October in odd-numbered years to first day of May annually; P.A. 77-614 transferred duties of board of examiners to department of health services and later repealed section, effective January 1, 1979; P.A. 78-303 amended repealer in P.A. 77-614 to delete reference to repeal of section; P.A. 80-484 transferred remaining duties of board to department, replaced certificates of registration with licenses, deleted requirement that applicant be at least eighteen and of good moral
character, replaced reference to apprenticeship with "working as a barber", required that acceptance of other state's license depends on license requirements which call for equivalent or higher entry standards, added reference to master barber, made licenses good for one year rather than until the following May first, removed provision which required one-year waiting period before reexamination in cases where applicant has failed three successive examinations, deleted provisions re manager barber certificates and re forfeiture of fee after failure to appear for examinations three times in succession and added provisions prohibiting issuance of licenses to persons involved in disciplinary action or unresolved complaint, requiring annual notification of board of number of applicants and establishing passing score; P.A. 81-471 deleted reference to period of working as a barber required prior to licensure and added a specific requirement of 1,500 hours of study and a provision authorizing licensure without examination in some cases; P.A. 84-173 required examinations for licensure to be prescribed by the department with the advice and assistance of the board and required the board's advice and assistance rather than consent in establishing a passing score; May Sp. Sess. P.A. 92-6 raised examination fee from $30 to $50; P.A. 93-296 added new Subsec. (b) re approval of barber schools and change of location or ownership, effective June 29, 1993; P.A. 93-381 and P.A. 93-435 replaced department and commissioner of health services with department and commissioner of public health and addiction services, effective July 1, 1993; P.A. 95-257 replaced Commissioner and Department of Public Health and Addiction Services with Commissioner and Department of Public Health, effective July 1, 1995; P.A. 98-166 amended Subsec. (a) to add, to eligibility for licensure without examination, anyone with a license in another state or territory for at least 40 years, effective June 4, 1998; P.A. 04-221 amended Subsec. (a) by replacing former provisions with Subdivs. (1) to (3) re qualifications for licensure; P.A. 05-272 amended Subsec. (a)(1)(A) by removing provision re equivalency examination prepared by Commissioner of Education; P.A. 09-232 amended Subsec. (a)(2) by eliminating requirement re English proficiency examination, effective July 1, 2009; June Sp. Sess. P.A. 09-3 amended Subsec. (a) to increase fees from $50 to $100; P.A. 10-117 amended Subsec. (a)(1) by changing hours of study requirement from 1,500 to 1,000 and by providing that licenses may not be transferred or assigned, amended Subsec. (a)(2) by deleting requirement re completion of not less than 1,500 hours of formal education and training in barbering, by adding provision re completion of program of education and training in barbering and by deleting former provision re substitution of licensed work experience toward meeting training requirement, redesignated existing Subsec. (b) as Subsec. (b)(1) and changed 1,500 hours to 1,000 hours therein and added Subsec. (b)(2) re regulations to prescribe minimum curriculum requirements for barber schools and re curriculum and procedures for barber school approval, effective October 1, 2011; P.A. 15-31 amended Subsec. (a)(1) to add new Subpara. (B) re qualifications for apprentice to obtain license as a barber, redesignate existing Subparas. (B) and (C) as Subparas. (A)(ii) and (A)(iii) and
make conforming changes; P.A. 17-112 added Subsec. (c) re submission to state or national criminal history records check as prerequisite to licensure.

Former statute cited. 113 C. 563.

Sec. 20-237. Registration as barber; qualifications; examination. Section 20-237 is repealed.


Sec. 20-238. Disciplinary action; grounds. Requirement for operation of shop.
(a) No person shall practice the occupation of master barber in this state unless he has first obtained a license as provided in section 20-236. Said department shall furnish to each person to whom a license is issued a card certifying that the holder thereof is entitled to practice the occupation of master barber in this state, and the holder of such card shall post the same in a conspicuous place in front of his working chair, where it may readily be seen by all persons whom he may serve. Said department shall keep a register in which shall be entered the names of all persons to whom such licenses are issued, and said register shall be at all times open to public inspection. The board may suspend or revoke any license or certificate granted by it or take any of the actions set forth in section 19a-17 if the holder of a license is incompetent, is habitually intoxicated or habitually addicted to the use of morphine, cocaine, or other habit-forming drugs, or is a violator of any provision of this chapter or of the regulations adopted pursuant thereto or is suffering from physical or mental illness or emotional disorder or loss of motor skill including but not limited to, deterioration through the aging process. Before any license is suspended or revoked or action taken under section 19a-17, such holder shall be given notice and afforded opportunity for hearing as provided in the regulations adopted by the Commissioner of Public Health. The Commissioner of Public Health
may order a certificate or license holder to submit to a reasonable physical or mental
examination if his physical or mental capacity to practice safely is the subject of an
investigation. Said commissioner may petition the superior court for the judicial district
of Hartford to enforce such order or any action taken pursuant to section 19a-17.

(b) No person, other than a person operating a barber shop on May 17, 1982, may
operate any barber shop unless such person has been licensed as a registered barber for
not less than two years.

(1949 Rev., S. 4571; 1949, S. 2281d; P.A. 77-614, S. 442, 610; P.A. 80-484, S. 102,
174, 176; P.A. 82-215, S. 2, 3; P.A. 88-230, S. 1, 12; P.A. 90-98, S. 1, 2; P.A. 93-142,
S. 4, 7, 8; 93-381, S. 9, 39; P.A. 95-220, S. 4–6; 95-257, S. 12, 21, 58.)

History: P.A. 77-614 replaced “sanitary regulations” with “any provision of this
chapter or the regulations adopted pursuant hereto” and restated notice and hearing
provisions to replace detailed statements with reference to notice and hearing as
provided in health services commissioner’s regulations, effective January 1, 1979; P.A.
80-484 replaced references to certificates with references to licenses and barber with
master barber, transferred duties formerly held by board of examiners to department of
health services, extended disciplinary actions beyond suspension or revocation of
license to encompass other actions in Sec. 19-4s, changed grounds for taking
disciplinary action, deleting felony conviction, malpractice or unprofessional conduct,
continuing to practice when afflicted by communicable disease and false, misleading or
deceptive advertising and adding grounds re physical or mental disorders, etc., deleted
 provision governing application for restoration of license and added provisions re
physical or mental examinations and re petitions to court for enforcement of orders or
actions; P.A. 82-215 added Subsec. (b) requiring a person to be licensed as a registered
barber for not less than two years before such person may operate a barber shop; P.A.
88-230 replaced “judicial district of Hartford-New Britain” with “judicial district of
Hartford”, effective September 1, 1991; P.A. 90-98 changed the effective date of P.A.
88-230 from September 1, 1991, to September 1, 1993; P.A. 93-142 changed the
effective date of P.A. 88-230 from September 1, 1993, to September 1, 1996, effective
June 14, 1993; P.A. 93-381 replaced commissioner of health services with commissioner of public health and addiction services, effective July 1, 1993; P.A. 95-220 changed the effective date of P.A. 88-230 from September 1, 1996, to September 1, 1998, effective July 1, 1995; P.A. 95-257 replaced Commissioner and Department of
Public Health and Addiction Services with Commissioner and Department of Public
Health, effective July 1, 1995.

See Sec. 20-248 re exceptions to provisions of chapter for patient at Veterans’ Home
practicing as master barber and for hairdresser and cosmetician license holders.
Sec. 20-239. Expiration of license; renewal; fee. All licenses issued to master barbers by the Department of Public Health shall be renewed once every two years, and shall expire in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88. No person shall carry on the occupation of master barber after the expiration of his license until he has made application bearing the date of his insignia card to said department, accompanied by a fee of one hundred dollars for the renewal of such license for two years. Such application shall be in writing, addressed to said department and signed by the person applying for such renewal.


History: 1969 act raised barbers' renewal fee from $7 to $10 and fee for late renewal from $10 to $20 and raised apprentices' fee for renewal from $3 to $5 and fee for late renewal from $5 to $10; 1971 act raised renewal and late renewal fees for barbers only to $25 and $50, respectively; 1972 act changed expiration date for barber or manager barber licenses from October first in odd-numbered years to May first annually and halved fee for regular renewal only; P.A. 73-259 added proviso on interim period in changing license expiration dates; P.A. 74-113 deleted obsolete proviso covering renewals during change over interim, halved fee for late renewal of barber or manager barber license and raised fee for late renewal of shop registration from $20 to $25; P.A. 80-484 deleted references to manager barbers, replaced references to barbers with master barber, transferred licensing power from board of examiners to health services department and made renewals as of January 1, 1981, conform with provisions of Sec. 19-45, replacing previous detailed provisions for late renewal of barber or manager barber license, renewal and late renewal of apprentice certificate and late renewal of shop registration; P.A. 81-471 deleted reference to May first as expiration date; May Sp. Sess. P.A. 92-6 raised fee to $25; P.A. 96-180 made a technical change, effective June 3, 1996; June 30 Sp. Sess. P.A. 03-3 changed license renewal format annually to biennially and increased renewal fee from $25 to $50, effective January 1, 2004; June Sp. Sess. P.A. 09-3 increased fee from $50 to $100.
Sec. 20-240. Registration of barber shops. Fee. Revocation. Section 20-240 is repealed.


Sec. 20-241. Inspection of barber shops and schools. Posting of license. All barber shops and barber schools shall be inspected regarding their sanitary condition by the Department of Public Health whenever the department deems it necessary, and any authorized representative of the department shall have full power to enter and inspect any such shop or school during usual business hours. If any barber shop or barber school, upon such inspection, is found to be in an unsanitary condition, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall make written order that such shop or school be placed in a sanitary condition. All barber shops and barber schools shall post in a conspicuous place the license of any person who engages in the practice of barbering in such shop or school. A director of health for any town, city, borough or district department of health, authorized by the department to enter and inspect barber shops and barber schools, in accordance with the provisions of this section, may assess a civil penalty in accordance with the provisions of section 20-249 against any person owning a barber shop or barber school that fails to post the licenses of persons engaged in the practice of barbering as prescribed in this section.

History: 1963 act updated statute, substituting the circuit court for town, city or municipal courts of the municipality; P.A. 74-183 replaced circuit court with court of common pleas and “circuit” with “county or judicial district”, effective December 31, 1974; P.A. 76-436 referred to “office of the state’s attorney of the court” rather than to “prosecuting attorney of the court of common pleas”, effective July 1, 1978; P.A. 77-614 transferred responsibility for sanitary inspections from board to health services department, acting on its initiative or at board’s request, and deleted option for order to close shop and following provisions re court procedure when noncompliance with orders occurs and re inclusion of shops inspected and number found insanitary in annual report of board, effective January 1, 1979; P.A. 80-484 deleted reference to board’s request for inspection; P.A. 82-472 made a technical change; P.A. 93-381 replaced department of health services with department of public health and addiction services, effective July 1, 1993; P.A. 95-257 replaced Commissioner and Department of Public Health and Addiction Services with Commissioner and Department of Public Health, effective July 1, 1995; P.A. 01-195 made technical changes, effective July 11, 2001; P.A. 10-117 added requirement that barber shop or barber school post the license of any person who practices barbering in such shop or school and added provision re authority of director of health to assess civil penalty for failure to comply with license posting requirement.

Sec. 20-242. Regulations. The Commissioner of Public Health, with advice and assistance from the board of examiners established under section 20-235a, may adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 to carry out the provisions of this chapter consistent with the preservation of the public health.


History: 1959 act updated statute, deleting provision that regulations be based on recommendations of the temporary state commission and adding statement re carrying out chapter’s provisions consistent with public health; P.A. 77-614 transferred powers formerly held by board of examiners to commissioner of health services, retaining board in advisory capacity and deleted enforcement power, effective January 1, 1979; P.A. 80-484 added reference to chapter 54 and deleted provisions concerning publication of regulations and granting regulations force and effect of law; P.A. 93-381 replaced
Sec. 20-243. Regulations concerning sterilizing of tools. Sanitation. The Commissioner of Public Health, with advice and assistance from the board established under section 20-235a, may adopt in accordance with chapter 54 such regulations as the commissioner deems necessary to procure adequate sterilizing of tools and implements used by barbers in the practice of their occupation in this state, and for any other purpose that the commissioner deems necessary to improve the sanitary condition of barber shops and their surroundings.

(1949 Rev., S. 4575; P.A. 77-614, S. 446, 610; P.A. 80-484, S. 107, 176; P.A. 93-381, S. 9, 39; P.A. 95-257, S. 12, 21, 58.)

History: P.A. 77-614 revised section to reflect transfer of regulatory power from board to commissioner of health services retaining board in advisory capacity, effective January 1, 1979; P.A. 80-484 added reference to chapter 54 and deleted provision for mailing copies of regulations to each licensed barber; P.A. 93-381 replaced commissioner of health services with commissioner of public health and addiction services, effective July 1, 1993; P.A. 95-257 replaced Commissioner and Department of Public Health and Addiction Services with Commissioner and Department of Public Health, effective July 1, 1995.

Sec. 20-244. Sanitary appliances and equipment. No barber shop and no barber shop in any school, college, private or public institution shall use or maintain any appliance or equipment that is insanitary or unclean. No towel, other than a fresh, separate and clean towel, and no hot towel other than one made hot by the use of hot,
fresh running water, shall be used upon any patron or customer of any barber shop, or any barber shop in any school, college, private or public institution. No powder puff, finger bowl, sponge, styptic pencil, hair duster, lump alum or cuspidor shall be allowed in any barber shop, or in any barber shop in any school, college or private or public institution.

(1949 Rev., S. 4577; 1955, S. 2285d.)

Secs. 20-245 and 20-246. Barber schools and colleges; licenses. Sundays and legal holidays; hours of opening and closing. Sections 20-245 and 20-246 are repealed.


Sec. 20-247. Appeals. Any person aggrieved by a final decision of said board or the Department of Public Health may appeal therefrom, as provided in section 4-183, except such appeal shall be made returnable to the judicial district of New Britain.


History: 1971 acts required that appeals be brought between 12 and 30 days after service rather than on next return day or “next but one” and, effective September 1, 1971, except that courts with cases pending retain jurisdiction unless pending matters deemed transferable, replaced superior court with court of common pleas; P.A. 76-436
replaced court of common pleas with superior court, effective July 1, 1978; P.A. 77-603 replaced previous detailed appeal provisions with statement that appeals shall be brought in accordance with Sec. 4-183, retaining provision for venue in Hartford county; P.A. 77-614 deleted venue provision, effective January 1, 1979; P.A. 78-280 added provision making appeals returnable to judicial district of Hartford-New Britain; P.A. 80-484 allowed appeals from actions of health services department, reflecting its assumption of some duties of board; P.A. 88-230 replaced “judicial district of Hartford-New Britain at Hartford” with “judicial district of Hartford”, effective September 1, 1991; P.A. 90-98 changed the effective date of P.A. 88-230 from September 1, 1991, to September 1, 1993; P.A. 93-142 changed the effective date of P.A. 88-230 from September 1, 1993, to September 1, 1996, effective June 14, 1993; P.A. 93-381 replaced department of health services with department of public health and addiction services, effective July 1, 1993; P.A. 95-220 changed the effective date of P.A. 88-230 from September 1, 1996, to September 1, 1998, effective July 1, 1995; P.A. 95-257 replaced Commissioner and Department of Public Health and Addiction Services with Commissioner and Department of Public Health, effective July 1, 1995; P.A. 96-47 changed “any action” to “a final decision”; P.A. 99-215 replaced “judicial district of Hartford” with “judicial district of New Britain”, effective June 29, 1999.

Sec. 20-248. Exceptions. Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit any resident of the Veterans Residential Services facility at Rocky Hill from practicing the occupation of a master barber in said facility. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent any person holding a registered hairdresser and cosmetician’s license under the provisions of chapter 387 from cutting the hair of any person, or to prevent any person licensed under the provisions of chapter 387 from carrying on the occupation of hairdresser and cosmetician. Nothing in this chapter or in chapter 387 shall be construed to prevent a licensed registered hairdresser and cosmetician from working in a barber shop or a licensed master barber from working in a hairdressing and cosmetology shop.


History: 1971 act substituted “patient” for “inmate”; P.A. 80-484 protected right to cut hair of “any person” rather than of “a female person” and protected right of hairdresser and cosmetician to work in barber shop and of barber to work in hairdressing
and cosmetology shop; P.A. 81-471 specified that “master” barber may practice at veterans' home and hospital and that licensed “registered” hairdresser and cosmetician may work in barber shop; P.A. 04-169 changed the name of the Veterans' Home and Hospital to the Veterans' Home, effective June 1, 2004; P.A. 05-288 made technical changes, effective July 13, 2005; P.A. 16-167 replaced “patient” with “resident”, replaced “Veterans' Home” with “Veterans Residential Services facility” and made a conforming change, effective July 1, 2016.

Cited. 113 C. 565.

Sec. 20-249. Penalty. Any licensed master barber who fails to comply with any regulation adopted under this chapter shall forfeit his right to be again licensed. Any person who practices the occupation of a master barber without having obtained a certificate of registration, or wilfully employs a master barber who does not have such a certificate, or falsely pretends to be qualified to practice such occupation, or practices the occupation of a master barber after the expiration of his license, or violates any other provision of this chapter, unless a penalty is otherwise specifically prescribed, shall be fined not more than two hundred fifty dollars.

(1949 Rev., S. 4584; P.A. 77-614, S. 450, 610; P.A. 81-471, S. 54, 71; P.A. 82-472, S. 82, 112; P.A. 12-80, S. 12.)

History: P.A. 77-614 replaced regulations adopted by board with regulations “under this chapter”, effective January 1, 1979; P.A. 81-471 changed “barber” to “master barber”; P.A. 82-472 made a technical change; P.A. 12-80 replaced penalty of a fine of not more than $100 or imprisonment of not more than 30 days or both with a fine of not more than $250 and made a technical change.

Cited. 212 C. 810.