

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6639

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Commerce & Labor, February 3, 2016

Title: An act relating to authorizing nonmedical tattoo removal procedures for minors by licensed tattoo artists.

Brief Description: Authorizing nonmedical tattoo removal procedures for minors by licensed tattoo artists.

Sponsors: Senator Braun.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Commerce & Labor: 2/03/16, 2/03/16 [DP].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & LABOR

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Baumgartner, Chair; Braun, Vice Chair; Hasegawa, Ranking Minority Member; Conway, Keiser, King and Warnick.

Staff: Jarrett Sacks (786-7448)

Background: Under state law, every individual who applies a tattoo to a minor under the age of 18 is guilty of a misdemeanor, unless the individual made a bona fide attempt to ascertain the age of the minor by requiring production of a driver's license or other identification.

"Tattoo" includes any permanent marking or coloring of the skin with any pigment, ink, or dye, or any procedure that leaves a visible scar on the skin.

The Department of Licensing issues licenses to tattoo artists, body artists, and body piercers. It is unlawful for an individual to engage in these practices, or operate a tattoo, body piercing, or body art business without a valid license. To obtain a license, an individual must be at least 18 years old, have a current bloodborne pathogens certificate, complete the licensing application, and pay any required fees.

Summary of Bill: The prohibition on applying a tattoo to a minor does not apply to nonmedical tattoo removal procedures performed by licensed tattoo artists.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: The bill will help youth offenders who have tattoos who are trying to re-enter society. Tattoos are a barrier to re-entry and current methods cannot meet demand. Laser treatment takes too long and is more expensive. Nonmedical tattoo removal is currently a regulatory grey-area. Homemade tattoos cannot be removed by laser and only the nonmedical procedures will work.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Kelli Noonan; Nita Cook; Ryan Bedford, Attorney.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.