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**Representatives Chambliss and Plakon File Bipartisan
Bill to Amend Requirements for Returning Citizens
Seeking a Barber or Cosmetologist License**

HOMESTEAD, Fla. – To help returning citizens pursue their profession and career goals, **Representative Kevin Chambliss (D-Homestead)** filed [House Bill 489 - Professional licensing Requirements for Barbers and Cosmetologists](#). This proposal will amend the Florida Statutes to reduce the time frame that the applicable board may use a criminal background as grounds to deny an application for licensure as a barber or cosmetologist from five years prior to the date an application is received to three years. The bill will also require the Barber’s Board and Board of Cosmetology to approve educational programs credits received from vocational training programs or industry certification programs offered in any correctional institution or facility to satisfy training requirements for licensure as a barber or cosmetologist. This bipartisan legislation is also supported by **Representative Rachel Lora Saunders Plakon (R-Lake Mary)**, who is a co-prime sponsor of the bill.

“Good, solid employment is one of the best ways in which we can reduce the recidivism rate for returning citizens. As returning citizens come back to our communities, we should be giving them the best chance possible to become a productive, law abiding citizen that has the ability to take care of themselves and/or their family. This bipartisan bill does just that,” said **Representative Chambliss**.

“I’m proud to work with Representative Chambliss on this important legislation. This bill will reduce recidivism and encourage redemption when appropriate. It will respect our hard-working taxpayers as well by reducing dependence on our social safety net programs,” stated **Representative Plakon**.

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