

Subject Regulation of hair braiding
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Date January 28, 2019

Overview

This bill removes the practice of hair braiding from the regulatory jurisdiction of the Board of Cosmetology.

State regulation of the practice of hair braiding has been a controversial topic in recent years. In the early 2000s, the state regulatory board with oversight over the practice of cosmetology began interpreting state law as requiring hair braiders to carry a cosmetologists' license in order to engage in professional hair braiding. In 2005, a group of hair braiders filed a lawsuit arguing that licensure – in particular, the 1,550-hour education and training program required to obtain a license – was not relevant to their practice, was unreasonably costly and burdensome, and created a substantial barrier to entry into the profession.

The settlement of the lawsuit included an agreement between the hair braiders and the state that the practice of braiding would not require a license, and that the regulatory agencies involved would not pursue legislation to change the laws governing hair braiders.

In 2007, the legislature enacted a new law requiring that hair braiders register – but not be licensed – with what is now known as the Board of Cosmetology. The registration requirement became effective July 1, 2008, and remains in effect today. In order to register, hair braiders are required to successfully complete a 30-hour educational program in infection control and submit a registration fee of \$20 per year.

This bill effectively repeals the 2007 law, and eliminates the practice of hair braiding from all aspects of state regulation and oversight – including elimination of the registration requirement, the annual registration fee, and educational requirements.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Schedule. Eliminates the \$20 annual fee required for hair braider registration.
2	Hair braiders exempt. Enacts a new law which expressly provides that the practice of hair braiding is not subject to the laws governing the practice of cosmetology.
3	Repealer. Repeals existing laws establishing registration and educational requirements for professional hair braiders.



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