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1 SB183
2 3PSUDZZ-1
3 By Senators Coleman, Coleman-Madison, Figures
4 RFD: Healthcare
5 First Read: 20-Jan-26



SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, hair braiding and hair weaving is considered a practice of cosmetology, and natural hair styling is subject to the licensing and training requirements of the Alabama Board of Cosmetology and Barbering.

This bill would remove the hair braiding and hair weaving from the definition of cosmetology.

This bill would exempt natural hair styling from regulation by the Alabama Board of Cosmetology and Barbering.

This bill would repeal the provisions that provide for applicant qualifications for natural hair stylist examination or licensing.

This bill would also make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to the Alabama Board of Cosmetology and Barbering; to amend Sections 34-7B-1 and 34-7B-13, Code of



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Alabama 1975; to remove braiding and weaving hair from the definition of "cosmetology"; to delete the definition of "natural hair stylist"; to exempt natural hair styling from regulation by the Alabama Board of Cosmetology and Barbering; to repeal Section 34-7B-20, Code of Alabama 1975, providing for applicant qualifications for natural hair stylist examination or licensing; and to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Sections 34-7B-1 and 34-7B-13, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

"§34-7B-1

For the purposes of this chapter, the following terms ~~shall~~ have the following meanings:

(1) APPRENTICE. Any person engaged in learning the practices defined in this article including, but not limited to, assisting in the performance of any acts of barbering or cosmetology on the general public under the constant and direct supervision of a person who has held a valid current license issued by the board for at least five years, in a shop licensed by the board.

(2) BARBERING. The occupation of shaving or trimming the beard, cutting or dressing the hair, giving facial or scalp massages, giving facial or scalp treatment with oils or creams or other preparations made for that purpose, either by hand or by means of mechanical appliances, singeing and shampooing the hair, dyeing the hair, or permanently waving or



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57 straightening the hair of any living or deceased person for
58 compensation, as performed by a Class 2 barber.

59 (3) BOARD. The Alabama Board of Cosmetology and
60 Barbering.

61 (4) CLASS 1 BARBER. A person who only does the
62 following in his or her ordinary course of business: Arranges,
63 cleans, cuts, or sings the hair of any person or massages,
64 cleans, stimulates, exercises, or does similar work on the
65 scalp, face, or neck of any person with the hands, or with
66 mechanical or electrical apparatus or appliance, or by the use
67 of cosmetic preparations, antiseptics, tonics, lotions, or
68 creams. Any one or a combination of the following practices,
69 when done upon the human body above the seventh cervical
70 vertebra for cosmetic purposes and not for the treatment of
71 disease or physical or mental ailments, and when done for
72 payment, directly or indirectly, or without payment for the
73 public generally: Shaving or trimming the beard or trimming
74 the hair.

75 (5) CLASS 2 BARBER. Any person, other than a student or
76 apprentice, who performs barbering on the general public for
77 compensation, and who shall satisfy the qualifications and
78 licensure requirements provided in this chapter for a Class 2
79 barber. For the purposes of this chapter, the term "barber,"
80 standing alone, shall be deemed a reference to a Class 2
81 barber.

82 (6) COSMETOLOGIST. Any person, other than a student or
83 apprentice, who performs cosmetology on the general public for
84 compensation, and who shall satisfy the qualifications and



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licensure requirements provided in this article for a cosmetologist.

(7) COSMETOLOGY. Any of the practices generally recognized as beauty culture, hairdressing, or any other designation engaged in by any person who performs such on the general public for compensation including, but not limited to, cleansing, singeing, cutting, arranging, dressing, curling, ~~braiding~~, waxing, bleaching, ~~weaving~~, coloring the hair by hand or mechanical apparatus, the use of creams, lotions, or cosmetic preparations, with or without massage, on the scalp, face, arms, legs, feet, or hands, esthetics practices, nail technology, manicure, pedicure, or desairology.

(8) ESTHETICIAN. Any person, other than a student or apprentice, who performs esthetics on the general public for compensation, and who shall satisfy the qualifications and licensure requirements provided in this article for an esthetician.

~~(9)~~ (10) ESTHETICS. The practice of performing acts of skin care including, but not limited to, facials, body waxing, makeup, and general esthetics procedures on the general public for compensation.

~~(10)~~ (11) ESTHETICS/MANICURE. A combination of the practices of esthetics and manicure.

~~(11)~~ (9) ESTHETICIAN/MANICURIST. Any person, other than a student or apprentice, who performs a combination of the practices of esthetics and manicure on the general public for compensation, and who shall satisfy the qualifications and licensure requirements provided in this article for an



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esthetician/manicurist.

(12) INSTRUCTOR. A licensee who teaches in a licensed or registered school of barbering or any branch of cosmetology and completes any applicable requirements for continuing education.

(13) LICENSE. A document issued by the board which entitles the holder to practice the profession listed on the document.

(14) LICENSEE. Any person holding a license issued pursuant to this article.

(15) MANICURE. The practice of beautifying or grooming the fingernails, toenails, adding nail tips, extensions, gels, or massaging the hands, forearms, feet, or lower legs of the general public for compensation.

~~(16)~~ (17) MANICURIST. Any person, other than a student or apprentice, who performs the practice of manicure on the general public for compensation, and who shall satisfy the qualifications and licensure requirements provided in this article for a manicurist.

~~(17)~~ (16) MANICURE/WAXING. A combination of the practices of manicure and waxing.

(18) MANICURIST/WAXER. Any person, other than a student or apprentice, who performs a combination of the practices of manicure and waxing on the general public for compensation, and who shall satisfy the qualifications and licensure requirements provided in this article for a manicurist/waxer.

(19) NATURAL HAIR STYLING. The practice of cleansing, weaving or interweaving, extending, locking, braiding, or



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arranging the hair without cutting, coloring, permanent waving, relaxing, removing, or chemical treatments.

~~(20) NATURAL HAIRSTYLIST. Any person, other than a student, who performs natural hair styling on the general public for compensation, and who shall satisfy the qualifications and licensure requirements provided in this article for a natural hairstylist.~~

~~(21)~~ (20) SCHOOL. An establishment licensed or registered by the board to teach any or all of the practices of barbering or cosmetology.

~~(22)~~ (21) SHAMPOO ASSISTANT. Any person who is licensed to perform only the practices of shampooing, cleansing, or applying temporary weekly color rinses to the hair of the general public for compensation, and who shall satisfy the qualifications and licensure requirements provided in this article for a shampoo assistant.

~~(23)~~ (22) SHOP. Any place where barbering or cosmetology is practiced including, but not limited to, a mobile salon. Only a properly licensed person, who is not an apprentice or a student, may operate a shop.

~~(24)~~ (23) STUDENT. Any person who is engaged in learning any practice regulated by this article in a school licensed or registered pursuant to this article, and who, as part of the learning process, performs or assists in any practice regulated by this article under the immediate supervision of an instructor who is licensed pursuant to this article.

(25) THREADING. The practice of eyebrow removal with the use of a loop made of cotton or any other material.



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~~(26)~~ (24) THREADER. Any person engaged in the practice of threading on the general public for compensation, and who shall satisfy the qualifications and licensure requirements provided in this article for a threader."

"§34-7B-13

This chapter does not apply to any of the following persons, activities, or services:

(1) Service in the case of emergency or domestic upheaval, without compensation.

(2) Licensed medical professionals operating within the scope of their normal practice.

(3) Personnel of the United States ~~armed-services~~ Armed Services performing their ordinary duties.

(4) Any public trade school or other public school or school program under the purview of the State Board of Education or a local board of education.

(5) Any person who only occasionally dresses hair and receives no compensation therefor, or does any other act or thing mentioned in this chapter, without holding himself or herself out to the public as a provider of any practices defined in this chapter for compensation.

(6) Departments in retail establishments where cosmetics are demonstrated and offered for sale but where no other acts of cosmetology or barbering are performed.

(7) The licensees of any county or municipal barber board or commission in existence on August 1, 2013, unless such board or commission elects, by resolution adopted by the governing body of the county or municipality, to come under



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197 the provisions of this chapter.

198 (8) Any person who practices as a Class 1 barber.

199 (9) Any person who practices natural hair styling as
200 defined in Section 34-7B-1, including facilities where only
201 natural hair styling is performed."

202 Section 2. Section 34-7B-20, Code of Alabama 1975,
203 providing for applicant qualifications for natural hair
204 stylist examination or licensing, is repealed.

205 Section 3. This act shall become effective on October
206 1, 2026.