
DIGEST

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HB 509 Engrossed

2025 Regular Session

Moore

Abstract: Provides relative to alternative hair design and natural hair braiding.

Present law provides for definitions.

Proposed law retains present law and defines "alternative hair design", "mechanical devices", "natural hair braider", "natural hair braiding", "natural hair braiding service", and "unregulated service" or "unregulated services".

Proposed law provides that unregulated services are exempt from regulation by the La. State Board of Cosmetology (board).

Proposed law provides that natural hair braiding and natural hair braiding services performed by a natural hair braider are unregulated services.

Proposed law provides for what "natural hair braiding" does not include.

Proposed law provides that natural hair braiding may be used to reference African hair braiding or styling, but is not limited to any particular cultural, ethnic, racial, or religious forms of hair styles.

Proposed law preempts local government ordinances that prohibit natural hair braiding, natural hair braiding services, or natural hair braiders. Proposed law further preempts local government ordinances that regulate any matter relating to the licensing, testing, training, facilities, or equipment of natural hair braiding, natural hair braiding services, or natural hair braiders as provided in proposed law.

Proposed law provides for alternative hair designer permit certification.

Proposed law provides that the board shall issue a special certificate for alternative hair design to any person who completes at least 500 hours of instruction.

Proposed law provides that only persons certified pursuant to the provisions of proposed law as an alternative hair designer may:

- (1) Hold themselves out to the public, solicit business, or advertise as a certified alternative hair designer.

- (2) Use the title or designation "alternative hair designer" under circumstances that would create or tend to create the impression to members of the general public that the person is a certified alternative hair designer, or is operating a certified alternative hair designer salon or shop.

Proposed law provides that individuals with special permits for alternative hair design shall provide their services only in facilities licensed by the board as cosmetology salons.

Proposed law provides that any person who applies for a special permit to practice alternative hair design who, has been issued an alternative hair design permit in another state and satisfactorily demonstrates two years of experience in the practice of alternative hair design shall be issued a permit.

Proposed law provides nothing in proposed law shall be construed to require individuals to obtain or hold an alternative hair designer certificate to practice natural hair braiding as defined in proposed law.

Proposed law provides that nothing in proposed law shall be construed to require individuals who practice natural hair braiding to work only in facilities licensed by the cosmetology board as salons unless the individuals hold an alternative hair design permit.

Directs the La. State Law Institute to alphabetize and renumber the definitions contained in present law and proposed law and to correct any cross-references that may need to be changed as a result of this renumbering.

(Adds R.S. 37:563(18)-(23), 581.1, and 581.2)