

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 370

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAYHAM

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

COSMETOLOGY: Provides for a special permit within the Louisiana Cosmetology Act

## 1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 37:563(13) through (17) and to enact R.S. 37:563(18) through  
3 (21) and 584.1, relative to the Louisiana Cosmetology Act; to provide for definitions;  
4 to establish a special permit for natural hair braiding services; to provide for permit  
5 qualifications; to provide for fees to the Louisiana State Board of Cosmetology; to  
6 provide for exemptions; to provide for state preemption; and to provide for related  
7 matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 37:563(13) through (17) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.  
10 37:563(18) through (21) and 584.1 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

## 11 §563. Definitions

12 As used in this Chapter, the following words have the following meanings:

13 \* \* \*

14 (13) "Mechanical devices" means clips, combs, crochet hooks, curlers,  
15 curling irons, hairpins, rollers, scissors, blunt-tipped needles, thread, and hair  
16 binders.

17 (14) "Mobile salon" means a self-contained facility, where cosmetology is  
18 practiced for a fee, that may be moved, towed, or transported from one location to  
19 another.

(15) "Natural hair braider" means any person who engages in natural hair braiding.

(16) "Natural hair braiding" means the twisting, wrapping, weaving, extending, locking, or braiding of hair by hand or with mechanical devices. Natural hair braiding includes all of the following:

(a) The use of natural or synthetic hair extensions, natural or synthetic hair  
and fibers, decorative beads, and other hair accessories.

(b) Minor trimming of natural hair or hair extensions incidental to twisting,  
wrapping, weaving, extending, locking, or braiding hair.

(c) The making of wigs from natural hair, natural fibers, synthetic fibers, and hair extensions.

(d) The use of topical agents such as conditioners, gels, moisturizers, oils, pomades, and shampoos in conjunction with performing any action as described in this Paragraph.

(17) "Natural hair braiding service" means any service performed by a natural hair braider engaged in the practice of natural hair braiding as defined in this

Section.

(14)(18) "Satellite classroom" means a separate classroom location used as supplemental training space located under the same roof of the main school building or on the same campus as the administrative center and within at least three hundred feet of the main school building for the purpose of training an overflow of students who cannot be accommodated at the main school.

(15)(19) "School" means any premises wherein cosmetology is taught.

(16)(20) "Student" means a person registered in a school authorized by the board to teach cosmetology.

(17)(21) "Teacher" or "instructor" means a person who teaches cosmetology for direct or indirect compensation, within a school.

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1       §584.1. Special permit requirements for natural hair braiding services

2               A. A special permit is required for natural hair braiding services at any  
3       location. Natural hair braiding services shall not include any of the following:

4               (1) The application of dyes, reactive chemicals, or other preparations to alter  
5       the color of the hair or to straighten, curl, or alter the structure of the hair.

6               (2) The use of chemical hair joining agents such as synthetic tape, keratin  
7       bonds, or fusion bonds.

8               B. Natural hair braiding is defined in R.S. 37:563 and may be used to  
9       reference African hair braiding or styling, but is not limited to any particular cultural,  
10       ethnic, racial, or religious forms of hair styles.

11              C.(1) To receive a special permit as a registered natural hair braider, a person  
12       shall meet all of the following requirements:

13              (a) Review training materials on sanitation and safety prepared by the board.

14              (b) Pass a twenty-question examination on sanitation and safety prepared by  
15       the board.

16              (c) Complete the board's application for a natural hair braiding permit and  
17       submit the application and completed examination to the board by mail, in person,  
18       or on the board's website.

19              (d) Pay applicable fees not to exceed twenty-five dollars.

20              (2) The board shall issue a special permit upon verifying a person has passed  
21       the examination by at least seventy percent.

22              (3) A person who holds a valid special permit issued pursuant to this  
23       Subsection shall be exempt from all of the following requirements:

24              (a) A certificate of registration for beauty shops or salons.

25              (b) Renewal of the special permit.

26              (c) Payment of additional fees for the maintenance of the permit.

27              (d) Taking any additional examination.

28              (4) The board shall make the training materials, examination, and application  
29       available at its office and on its website.

- 1           D. Ordinances by units of local government that prohibit natural hair  
2           braiding, natural hair braiding services, or natural hair braiders, or regulate any  
3           matter relating to the licensing, testing, training, facilities, or equipment of natural  
4           hair braiding, natural hair braiding services, or natural hair braiders are preempted  
5           by the provisions of this Chapter.  
6           Section 2. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2026.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 370 Engrossed

2025 Regular Session

Bayham

**Abstract:** Adds definitions and establishes a special permit within the La. Cosmetology Act.

Present law provides for definitions in the La. Cosmetology Act.

Proposed law retains present law and defines "mechanical devices", "natural hair braider", "natural hair braiding", and "natural hair braiding service".

Proposed law creates special permit requirements for natural hair braiding services.

Proposed law provides what natural hair braiding services shall not include.

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

Proposed law provides that in order to receive a special permit as a registered natural hair braider, a person shall meet all of the following requirements:

- (1) Review training materials on sanitation and safety prepared by the board.
- (2) Pass a 20-question examination on sanitation and safety prepared by the board.
- (3) Complete the board's application for a natural hair braiding permit and submit the application and completed examination to the board by mail, in person, or on the board's website.
- (4) Pay applicable fees not to exceed \$25.

Proposed law requires the board to issue a special permit upon verifying a person has passed the examination by at least 70%.

Proposed law provides for exemptions for a person who holds a valid special permit issued pursuant to proposed law.

Proposed law provides that the board shall make the training materials, examination, and application available at its office and on its website.

Proposed law provides that ordinances by units of local government that are related to proposed law are preempted by the provisions of present and proposed law.

Effective July 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 37:563(13)-(17); Adds R.S. 37:563(18)-(21) and 584.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Commerce to the original bill:

1. Increase the exam questions for a hair braiding permit from 15 questions to 20 questions.