

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 509

BY REPRESENTATIVE MOORE

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

COSMETOLOGY: Provides relative to alternative hair design and natural hair braiding

## 1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 37:563(18) through (22), 581.1, and 584.1, relative to alternative hair design  
3 and natural hair braiding; to provide for definitions; to provide for an alternative hair  
4 design certificate of registration; to provide for a natural hair braiding special permit;  
5 to provide for powers and duties of the board; to provide for effectiveness; and to  
6 provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 37:563(18) through (22), 581.1, and 584.1 are hereby enacted to read  
9 as follows:

## 10 §563. Definitions

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

12 \* \* \*

13 (18) "Alternative hair design" means the practice of natural hair braiding in  
14 a licensed salon. It includes the application of shampoos, conditioners, antiseptics,  
15 clays, lotions, or tonics to the hair but does not include the application of dyes,  
16 reactive chemicals, or other preparations to alter the structure or style of the natural  
17 hair. It also includes the use of any hair which is not a person's own hair, including  
18 synthetic hair, traditional wigs, braids, postitch, or any applied hair, and the use of  
19 curlers and curling irons.

20 (19) "Mechanical devices" are clips, combs, crochet hooks, hairpins,  
21 scissors, blunt-tipped needles, thread, and hair binders.

1           (20)(a) "Natural hair braiding" means twisting, wrapping, weaving,  
2           extending, locking, or braiding of hair by hand or with mechanical devices. Natural  
3           hair braiding includes all of the following when incidental to twisting, wrapping,  
4           weaving, extending, locking, or braiding the hair:

5           (i) The use of natural or synthetic hair extensions, decorative beads, and  
6           other hair accessories, including weaving hair braiding wigs.

7           (ii) Minor trimming of the ends of natural or synthetic hair after it is braided  
8           to complete a braiding style or that is incidental to twisting, wrapping, weaving,  
9           extending, locking, or braiding hair.

10          (iii) The use of topical agents such as gels, moisturizers, oils, and pomades  
11          when performing any action as described in this Paragraph.

12          (iv) The use of a curling iron when weaving.

13          (b) Natural hair braiding does not include any of the following:

14          (i) The application of dyes, reactive chemicals, or other preparations to alter  
15          the color of the hair or to straighten, curl, or alter the structure of the hair.

16          (ii) The use of chemical hair joining agents such as synthetic tape, keratin  
17          bonds, or fusion bonds.

18          (iii) Hair cutting except for minor trimming described in this Paragraph.

19          (iv) Traditional wig making except as authorized in this Paragraph.

20          (v) The use of a curling iron or curlers for services beyond weaving.

21          (21) "Traditional wig making" means the making of a full head covering of  
22          artificial or human hair. It does not include hair braiding wigs.

23          (22) "Weaving hair braiding wig" means a wig constructed by weaving in  
24          hair extensions to braids.

25          §581.1. Alternative hair design

26          A. The board shall issue a certificate of registration for alternative hair  
27          design to any person who completes at least five hundred hours and no more than six  
28          hundred hours of instruction and passes an examination prepared or approved by the  
29          board, which shall include but not be limited to the following:

1           (1) History overview including:

2           (a) Ancient origins of braiding.

3           (b) Traditional multi-cultural braid styles.

4           (c) The multi-cultural American hair experience.

5           (2) Bacteriology and sanitation including:

6           (a) Growth and reproduction of bacteria.

7           (b) Prevention of infection and infection control.

8           (c) Use of antiseptics, disinfectants, and detergents.

9           (3) Client consultation.

10          (4) Hair types and hair structure.

11          (5) Scalp diseases and disorders.

12          (6) Shampoos, conditioners, herbal treatments, and rinses for synthetic hair  
13          only.

14          (7) Braiding and sculpting.

15          (8) Louisiana Cosmetology Act and rules and regulations.

16          B. An alternative hair design certificate of registration is required to do any  
17          of the following:

18               (1) Work in registered shops and salons.

19               (2) Make traditional wigs or curl hair when providing an alternative hair  
20               design beyond weaving.

21          C. Only a person with a certificate of registration to practice alternative hair  
22          design may hold himself out to the public, solicit business, or advertise as an  
23          alternative hair designer and operate in a salon or shop registered with the board. All  
24          provisions relative to holders of certificates of registration issued by the board,  
25          including inspections, shall apply to persons with a certificate of registration to  
26          practice alternative hair design.

27          D. Any person who applies for a certificate of registration to practice  
28          alternative hair design who has been issued an alternative hair design permit in

1 another state and satisfactorily demonstrates two years of experience in the practice  
2 of alternative hair design shall be issued a certificate.

3 §584.1. Natural hair braiding special permit

4 A. A special permit is required for natural hair braiding. Natural hair  
5 braiding shall be conducted outside registered beauty shops and salons, including in  
6 a residence, with a special permit in accordance with this Section.

7 B.(1) An applicant shall apply to the board for a natural hair braiding permit  
8 in person or by mail. The applicant shall pay the following fees:

9 (a) A twenty-five dollar initial fee for the permit.

10 (b) A twenty-five dollar fee for inspections.

11 (2) The permit shall also be renewed by the permit holder annually, at least  
12 thirty days before its expiration.

13 C. An applicant for the natural hair braiding permit shall view an  
14 instructional video prepared or approved by the board that contains information  
15 about infection control techniques, hair braiding techniques to prevent traction  
16 alopecia, and diseases of the scalp that are appropriate for natural hair braiding and  
17 may offer supplemental written training resources. The board shall also prepare or  
18 approve a handout that contains best practices for infection control and prevention  
19 to reference and to review prior to permit renewal.

20 D. An applicant for a natural hair braiding special permit shall submit to the  
21 board the following information on the forms provided for applying for a permit in  
22 accordance with this Section:

23 (1) The name, physical address, mailing address, and telephone number of  
24 applicant.

25 (2) The name, mailing address, and telephone number, if different from the  
26 applicant's personal phone number, of the place where the applicant will provide  
27 natural hair braiding services.

28 (3) An attestation that the applicant viewed the required instructional video.

1           E.(1) Upon the board's receipt of a complete application, the applicant shall  
2           take the natural hair braiding twenty-question examination prepared or approved by  
3           the board to test concepts covered in the instructional video, including infection  
4           control and natural hair braiding techniques to prevent traction alopecia. The  
5           examination shall be issued in person at the board's office and online in coordination  
6           with the Louisiana Department of Health. The board shall issue a permit if the  
7           applicant passes the examination with a score of seventy percent or greater.

8           F. A permit holder pursuant to this Section shall provide only natural hair  
9           braiding and shall not provide natural hair braiding in registered shops and salons  
10          unless the person holds an alternative hair design license.

11          G. At least thirty days prior to the expiration of a permit, a permit holder  
12          shall submit an application for renewal in person or by mail to the board annually.  
13          The board may charge a fee not to exceed fifty dollars for permit renewal. A permit  
14          holder shall not be required to complete an additional examination to renew a permit,  
15          but the board may require the person to attest to reviewing the training resources in  
16          Subsection C of this Section. If a permit holder files an application with the board  
17          for renewal in proper form not less than thirty days prior to the expiration date stated  
18          on the permit, the permit shall not expire on that date.

19          H. The permit holder shall notify the board before making any change which  
20          would render the information contained in the original application for the permit no  
21          longer accurate. A natural hair braiding special permit is not transferable.

22          I. The board shall update its website to include instructions on how to obtain,  
23          maintain, and renew a permit pursuant to this Section and the requirement for a  
24          alternative hair design license or a natural hair braiding permit.

25          J. The board may inspect the location of a permit holder in accordance with  
26          this Section to ensure the permit holder is using salon-grade disinfectant to sanitize  
27          tools and does not exceed the scope of practice authorized by this Chapter. Nothing  
28          in this Subsection shall interfere with a person's right to request an administrative  
29          warrant.

1           K. A permit holder shall display his permit in a conspicuous location for  
2           consumers to view at the braiding facility where he provides services. The board  
3           shall ensure that the permit clearly indicates that the services are not licensed but  
4           permitted by the Louisiana State Board of Cosmetology.

5           L. The board shall provide a phone number or form on its website for  
6           consumers to call or submit complaints and may follow up on a complaint with a  
7           permit holder if it has reason to believe a consumer has been harmed.

8           M. A permit holder shall comply with all local laws, including zoning laws.

9           N. The board may deny, suspend, or revoke a permit applied for or issued  
10          pursuant to this Section for any of the following:

11           (1) Any material false statement in the application for the permit.

12           (2) Braiding in a manner that harms a consumer's health or safety.

13           (3) Violation of the provisions of this Section, or an order of the board.

14           (4) Engaging in the unlicensed or unpermitted practice of a service regulated  
15          by this Chapter.

16           O. Prior to the institution of proceedings for suspension or revocation of a  
17          permit, the board shall do all of the following:

18           (1) Notify the permit holder, in writing, the facts or conduct which may  
19          warrant such action.

20           (2) Provide reasonable opportunity for the permit holder to demonstrate or  
21          achieve compliance with all lawful requirements.

22           P. The board may deny a permit or suspend or revoke a permit after issuance  
23          only in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Administrative Procedure Act.

24           Q. The board may fine a person two hundred dollars for each violation of  
25          this Section not to exceed a total of two thousand dollars.

26          Section 2. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby authorized and directed to  
27          alphabetize and renumber the definitions contained in R.S. 37:563 and to correct any cross-  
28          references to the renumbered paragraphs if necessary, consistent with the provisions of this  
29          Act.

- 1           Section 3. The provisions of R.S. 37:584.1 as enacted by Section 1 of this Act shall  
2 be effective on January 1, 2026.

---

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)]

---

HB 509 Reengrossed

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 braiding", "traditional wig making", and "weaving hair braiding wig".

Proposed law provides for alternative hair designer certificate of registration.

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

Proposed law provides for when an alternative hair design certificate of registration is required.

Proposed law provides that only a person with a certificate of registration to practice alternative hair design may hold himself out to the public, solicit business, or advertise as an alternative hair designer and operate in a salon or shop registered with the board. All provisions relative to holders of certificates of registration issued by the board, including inspections, shall apply to persons with a certificate of registration to practice alternative hair design.

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 creates the natural hair braiding special permit.

Proposed law provides for fees for a natural hair braiding special permit.

Proposed law provides for what is required on an application for a natural hair braiding special permit.

Proposed law provides for an examination and an instructional video, prepared by or approved by the board, for an applicant that includes infection control and natural hair braiding techniques to prevent traction alopecia. Proposed law further provides that this examination shall be issued in accordance with the La. Dept. of Health.

Proposed law provides for the renewal of the natural hair braiding special permit.

Proposed law provides for an inspection of the natural hair braiding special permit holder.

Proposed law provides for the board's ability to deny, suspend, or revoke a natural hair braiding special permit.

Provides for certain effective dates.

(Adds R.S. 37:563(18)-(22), 581.1, and 584.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Remove the definitions of "natural hair braider", "natural hair braiding service", and "unregulated service". Amend the definitions of "alternative hair design", "mechanical devices", and "natural hair braiding". Add the definitions of "traditional wig making" and "weaving hair braiding wig".
3. Remove provisions designating natural hair braiding as an unregulated service.
4. Amend the requirements for an alternative hair design certificate of registration.
5. Create the natural hair braiding special permit.
6. Add effectiveness.