

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 266

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAYHAM

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 sanitation and safety training by the office of public health in the
7 Louisiana Department of Health; to provide for exemptions; to provide for state
8 preemption; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 37:563(13) through (17) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
11 37:563(18) through (21) and 584.1 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 §563. Definitions

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

14 * * *

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

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

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

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

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

8 C.(1) A person shall annually meet all of the following requirements to
9 receive a special permit as a registered natural hair braider:

10 (a) Review training materials on sanitation and safety prepared by the office
11 of public health in the Louisiana Department of Health.

12 (b) Pass a twenty-question examination on sanitation and safety prepared by
13 and administered by the office of public health in the Louisiana Department of
14 Health.

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

18 (d) Pay applicable fees for a special permit as outlined in R.S. 37:599.

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

21 (3) A person who holds a valid special permit issued pursuant to this
22 Subsection shall be exempt from a certification of registration for beauty shops or
23 salons.

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

26 D. Ordinances by units of local government that prohibit natural hair
27 braiding, natural hair braiding services, or natural hair braiders, or regulate any
28 matter relating to the licensing, testing, training, facilities, or equipment of natural

- 1 hair braiding, natural hair braiding services, or natural hair braiders are preempted
 2 by the provisions of this Chapter.
 3 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2027.

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 266 Original

2026 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 a person shall annually meet all of the following requirements in order to receive a special permit as a registered natural hair braider:

- (1) Review training materials on sanitation and safety prepared by the office of public health in the La. Dept. of Health.
- (2) Pass a 20-question examination on sanitation and safety prepared by and administered by the office of public health in the La. Dept. of Health.
- (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 outlined in present law.

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, 2027.

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