
DIGEST

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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)