

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 (23), 581.1, and 581.2, relative to alternative hair design  
3 and natural hair braiding; to provide for definitions; to define unregulated services  
4 and establish natural hair braiding as an unregulated service; to provide for state  
5 preemption; to provide for alternative hair design certification; and to provide for  
6 related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 37:563(18) through (23), 581.1, and 581.2 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 styling hair by twisting,  
14 wrapping, weaving, extending, locking, or braiding the hair by either the use of  
15 hands, mechanical devices, or appliances. The practice of alternative hair design  
16 shall include the application of antiseptics, powders, oils, clays, lotions, or tonics to  
17 the alternative hair but shall not include the application of dyes, reactive chemicals,  
18 or other preparations to alter the structure or style of the natural hair.

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

1           (20) "Natural hair braider" means any person who engages in natural hair  
2           braiding.

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

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

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

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

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

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

18          (23) "Unregulated service" or "unregulated services" means services not  
19          defined or interpreted as the practice of cosmetology as provided in this Chapter and  
20          which are exempt from regulation by the board. The terms include any natural hair  
21          braiding service as defined in this Section.

22          §581.1. Unregulated services; natural hair braiding; preemption

23           A. Natural hair braiding is an unregulated service and shall not include any  
24           of the following:

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

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

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

4           C. Ordinances by units of local government that prohibit natural hair  
5           braiding, natural hair braiding services, or natural hair braiders, or regulate any  
6           matter relating to the licensing, testing, training, facilities, or equipment of natural  
7           hair braiding, natural hair braiding services, or natural hair braiders are preempted  
8           by the provisions of this Chapter.

9           §581.2. Alternative hair designer permit certification

10           A. The board shall issue a special certificate for alternative hair design to any  
11           person who completes at least five hundred hours of instruction which shall include  
12           but not be limited to the following:

13                   (1) History overview including:

14                           (a) Ancient origins of braiding.

15                           (b) Traditional multi-cultural braid styles.

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

17                   (2) Bacteriology and sanitation including:

18                           (a) Growth and reproduction of bacteria.

19                           (b) Prevention of infection and infection control.

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

21                   (3) Client consultation.

22                   (4) Hair types and hair structure.

23                   (5) Scalp diseases and disorders.

24                   (6) Shampoos, conditioners, herbal treatments, and rinses for synthetic hair  
25           only.

26                   (7) Braiding and sculpting.

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

28           B. Only persons certified pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter as an  
29           alternative hair designer may:



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)