

HCS HB 230 -- COSMETOLOGY AND BARBERS

SPONSOR: Dogan

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 9 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 10 to 4.

This bill specifies that the practice of cosmetology cannot include hair braiding. The bill requires that all individuals engaging in braiding first register with the State Board of Cosmetology and Barber Examiners. The purpose of the registration is only to maintain a listing of individuals who engage in hair braiding for compensation and does not authorize the board to license or regulate the practice of hair braiding in any way. The board must prepare a brochure containing information regarding infection control techniques for hair braiding that must contain a self-test with questions. An individual engaged in the practice of hair braiding is required to complete the self-test and make it available upon request.

This bill also removes the requirement that applicants for a barber license be free of contagious or infectious diseases. The bill removes the good moral character requirement for cosmetologists and specifies that applicants will be denied licensure if they have been found guilty of any of a set list of offenses. Under current law the board will grant a license, without first requiring an examination, to an applicant who already holds a license in another state where the requirements for licensure are substantially equal to the licensing requirements in Missouri. This bill removes the substantial similar requirement.

This bill is similar to HB 1770 (2016).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the cost and educational requirements for a cosmetology license are unduly burdensome for individuals who only want to braid hair. African American hair braiding is not something that is taught in school but a skill learned in the course of one's lifetime. Requiring a cosmetology license to practice hair braiding does not make sense and only serves as a barrier to people trying to support themselves and their families. Any health and sanitation concerns can be addressed by utilizing basic common sense, no special training is necessary.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dogan; Tameka Stigers, Locs of Glory; Ndioba Niang; Jerry M. Hunter, Institute For

Justice; Wendy Doyle, Women's Foundation; Dave Roland; Benita Nikiforovitch; Faton Dime; Rachel Patrick; Sandra Laws; Americans For Prosperity - Missouri; Nicole Jackson; Ti Ti Madjokpor; and Joshua Stigers.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill fear that it could pose a health and safety risk to the public. There are a number of diseases that can be transmitted through contact with the scalp. Cosmetologists are taught to recognize herpes of the scalp, lice, scabies, and scalp ringworm. A hair braider with no training may not be able to distinguish between a potentially contagious condition and a skin condition that is not, like psoriasis. Unless proper sanitation and infection control techniques are utilized, hair braiders could inadvertently transmit diseases or cause infections. Many individuals who testified acknowledged that hair braiders shouldn't need a full cosmetology license but would like to see some educational requirement to address the health and safety issues.

Testifying against the bill were Scott Sharp; Krista Bonnot; Krystal Holliday; Marilyn Sharp; Gina Kinion, Elaine Steven Beauty College; and Katherine Wakefield, Barber Mechanics.

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