

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1177

5 By: Representatives Ballinger, Bentley, Rushing, Womack, Vaught, Gonzales, Harris
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CREATE THE NATURAL HAIR BRAIDING PROTECTION
9 ACT; TO EXEMPT HAIR BRAIDING FROM THE COSMETOLOGY
10 TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

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13 TO CREATE THE NATURAL HAIR BRAIDING
14 PROTECTION ACT.
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 26, is amended to add an
21 additional subchapter to read as follows:
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Subchapter 5 – Natural Hair Braiding Protection Act

17-26-501. Title.

25 This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the “Natural Hair
26 Braiding Protection Act.”
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17-26-502. Legislative findings.

29 The General Assembly finds that:
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31 (1) Natural hair braiding is a traditional practice that is
32 safe;

33 (2) Natural hair braiding presents no significant health and
34 safety risks to customers or practitioners;

35 (3) Occupational regulation harms consumers by limiting their
36 choices or by forcing consumers to forgo braiding services or enter the



1 underground economy;

2 (4) Occupational regulation and occupational licenses cause
 3 unnecessary difficulties for natural hair braiders to earn an honest living
 4 through their practice, to provide for themselves and their families, to
 5 offer their services to and compete for customers, and to create new
 6 employment and business opportunities through their entrepreneurship; and

7 (5) It is the public policy of this state to protect economic
 8 liberty.

9
 10 17-26-503. Definitions.

11 As used in this subchapter:

12 (1) "Mechanical device" means clips, combs, curlers, curling
 13 irons, hairpins, rollers, scissors, needles, thread, and hair binders; and

14 (2)(A) "Natural hair braiding" means a service of twisting,
 15 wrapping, weaving, extending, locking, or braiding hair by hand or with a
 16 mechanical device that includes without limitation:

17 (i) The use of natural or synthetic hair extensions,
 18 natural or synthetic hair fibers, decorative beads, and other hair
 19 accessories;

20 (ii) The minor trimming of natural hair or hair
 21 extensions incidental to twisting, wrapping, weaving, extending, locking, or
 22 braiding hair;

23 (iii) The use of topical agents such as
 24 conditioners, gels, moisturizers, oils, pomades, and shampoos; and

25 (iv) The making of wigs from natural hair, natural
 26 fibers, synthetic fibers, and hair extensions.

27 (B) Natural hair braiding does not include:

28 (i) The application of dyes, reactive chemicals, or
 29 other preparations to alter the color of the hair or to straighten, curl, or
 30 alter the structure of the hair follicle; or

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

33 (C) Natural hair braiding is commonly known as "African-
 34 style hair braiding" but is not limited to any particular cultural, ethnic,
 35 racial, or religious form of hairstyle.

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1 17-26-504. Exemption.

2 The practice of natural hair braiding is exempt from regulation under
3 this chapter and is exempt from the authority of the Cosmetology Technical
4 Advisory Committee, the State Board of Health, and the Department of Health.

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