

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

As Engrossed: H2/3/15

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1177

5 By: Representatives Ballinger, Bentley, Rushing, Womack, Vaught, Gonzales, Harris, *Brown, Gates,*
6 *House, M. Hodges*
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE NATURAL HAIR BRAIDING PROTECTION
10 ACT; TO EXEMPT HAIR BRAIDING FROM THE COSMETOLOGY
11 TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12
13

Subtitle

15 TO CREATE THE NATURAL HAIR BRAIDING
16 PROTECTION ACT.
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 17, Chapter 26, is amended to add an
22 additional subchapter to read as follows:
23

Subchapter 5 – Natural Hair Braiding Protection Act

17-26-501. Title.

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

31 The General Assembly finds that:

32 (1) Natural hair braiding is a traditional practice that is
33 safe;

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

36 (3) Occupational regulation harms consumers by limiting their



1 choices or by forcing consumers to forgo braiding services or enter the
2 underground economy;

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

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

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11 17-26-503. Definitions.

12 As used in this subchapter:

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 (B) Natural hair braiding does not include:

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

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

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

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17-26-504. Exemption.

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

/s/Ballinger