

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

As Engrossed: H3/15/23

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1576

By: Representative Scott
By: Senator B. Davis

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE CREATING A RESPECTFUL AND
OPEN WORLD FOR NATURAL HAIR (CROWN) ACT; TO PROHIBIT
DISCRIMINATION BASED UPON NATURAL, PROTECTIVE, OR
CULTURAL HAIRSTYLE IN *PUBLIC* SCHOOLS AND IN STATE-
SUPPORTED TWO-YEAR OR FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS OF
HIGHER EDUCATION; TO ADD DEFINITIONS TO THE ARKANSAS
CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1993; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ESTABLISH THE CREATING A RESPECTFUL
AND OPEN WORLD FOR NATURAL HAIR (CROWN)
ACT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Creating a Respectful
and Open World for Natural Hair (CROWN) Act".

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 10, is amended to add an
additional section to read as follows:

6-10-137. Discrimination based on natural, protective, or cultural
hairstyle in public schools prohibited - Definition.

(a) As used in this section, "natural, protective, or cultural
hairstyle" includes without limitation afros, dreadlocks, twists, locs,
braids, cornrow braids, Bantu knots, curls, and hair styled to protect hair



1 texture or for cultural significance.

2 (b) A school district administrator, board member, teacher, or other
3 employee shall not discriminate against a student based upon the student's
4 natural, protective, or cultural hairstyle.

5
6 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 61, Subchapter 1, is amended
7 to add an additional section to read as follows:

8 6-61-142. Discrimination based on natural, protective, or cultural
9 hairstyle in higher education prohibited - Definition.

10 (a) As used in this section, "natural, protective, or cultural
11 hairstyle" includes without limitation afros, dreadlocks, twists, locs,
12 braids, cornrow braids, Bantu knots, curls, and hair styled to protect hair
13 texture or for cultural significance.

14 (b) A state-supported two-year or four-year institution of higher
15 education shall not discriminate against a student based upon the student's
16 natural, protective, or cultural hairstyle.

17
18 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 16-123-102, concerning definitions within
19 the Arkansas Civil Rights Act of 1993, is amended to add additional
20 subdivisions to read as follows:

21 (9) "Because of national origin" includes without limitation on
22 account of a natural, protective, or cultural hairstyle;

23 (10) "Because of race" includes without limitation on account of
24 a natural, protective, or cultural hairstyle;

25 (11) "Ethnic animosity" includes without limitation on account
26 of a natural, protective, or cultural hairstyle;

27 (12) "Natural, protective, or cultural hairstyle" includes
28 without limitation afros, dreadlocks, twists, locs, braids, cornrow braids,
29 Bantu knots, curls, and hair styled to protect hair texture or for cultural
30 significance; and

31 (13) "Racial animosity" includes without limitation on account
32 of a natural, protective, or cultural hairstyle.

33
34 /s/Scott