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

(c) The Division of Youth Services is exempt from this section.

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

6-61-142. Discrimination based on natural, protective, or cultural hairstyle in higher education 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 texture or for cultural significance.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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