

Natural Hair Braiding Protection Act

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100.1 Purpose. Natural hair braiding is a traditional practice that is safe. It presents no significant health and safety risks to customers or practitioners. This state should protect liberty. It has no interest in requiring practitioners to obtain an occupational license or other form of occupational regulation because such regulation makes it unnecessarily difficult for natural hair braiders to earn an honest living through their practice, to provide for themselves and their families, to offer their services to and compete for customers, and to create new employment and business opportunities through their entrepreneurship. In addition, such occupational regulation harms consumers by limiting their choices, forcing consumers to forgo braiding services or enter the underground economy.

100.2 Definitions.

Subdivision 1. Natural hair braiding. Natural hair braiding is a service of twisting, wrapping, weaving, extending, locking, or braiding hair by hand or with mechanical devices.

(1) Natural hair braiding includes:

- (a) the use of natural or synthetic hair extensions, natural or synthetic hair and fibers, decorative beads, and other hair accessories;
- (b) minor trimming of natural hair or hair extensions incidental to twisting, wrapping, weaving, extending, locking, or braiding hair;
- (c) the making of wigs from natural hair, natural fibers, synthetic fibers, and hair extensions; and
- (d) the use of topical agents such as conditioners, gels, moisturizers, oils, pomades, and shampoos in conjunction with performing (a)-(c).

(2) Natural hair braiding is commonly known as “African-style hair braiding” but is not limited to any particular cultural, ethnic, racial, or religious forms of hair styles;

(3) Natural hair braiding does not include:

(a) the application of dyes, reactive chemicals, or other preparations to alter the color of the hair or to straighten, curl, or alter the structure of the hair; or

(b) the use of chemical hair joining agents such as synthetic tape, keratin bonds, or fusion bonds.

Subd. 2. Mechanical devices. Mechanical devices mean clips, combs, crochet hooks, curlers, curling irons, hairpins, rollers, scissors, blunt-tipped needles, thread, and hair binders.

100.3 Exemption. The practice of natural hair braiding is exempt from regulation under this chapter.

100.4 Effective Date.