April 18, 2007

H 1609. HAIR BRAIDER LICENSURE/COSMETIC ART ACT. Filed 4/18/07. AMENDING THE COSMETIC ART ACT TO PROVIDE FOR LICENSURE OF PERSONS ENGAGING IN THE PRACTICE OF NATURAL HAIR BRAIDING.

Amends GS 88B-22 to add *hair braiding* as a cosmetic art that requires licensing in order to practice it for pay or reward in any form and classifies practicing hair braiding without a license as a Class 3 misdemeanor. Amends GS 88B-2 to define *hair braiding, braiding teacher*, and *hair braider*. Enacts new GS 88B-10.1 specifying that licensing requirements to practice hair braiding include 300 hours of a hair braider curriculum in an approved cosmetic art school, passing an exam conducted by the North Carolina Board of Cosmetic Art Examiners (Board), and payment of certain licensing and application fees under GS 88B-20. Amends GS 88B-11 to provide standards for receiving a license to practice as a hair braiding teacher. Makes additional changes to add hair braider to provisions regarding temporary employment (GS 88B-12), applicants licensed in other states (GS 88B-13), guidelines for exams (GS 88B-18), renewals, expired licenses and inactive status (GS 88B-21), criminal penalties (GS 88B-22), and disciplinary measures [GS 88B-24(9)].

Exempts persons actively engaged in hair braiding on the effective date of this act from meeting the requirement for 300 hours of instruction if all other requirements of the law are met. Provides that a shop actively engaged in the practice of hair braiding on the effective date of the act will have one year to comply with requirement to list all licensees who practice in the shop as an employee or booth renter [GS 88B-14(b)]. Persons who fail to apply to the Board for licensing under these provisions within one year of the effective date of the act will be required to complete all training and examination requirements under the act. Effective October 1, 2007.

Intro. by Parmon. GS 88B