



This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

SENATE BILL 808: Board of Cosmetic Art Examiners Amendments.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Regulatory Reform. If favorable, re- refer to Finance. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	April 28, 2026
Introduced by:	Sens. Galey, Moffitt, Sanderson	Prepared by:	Chris Saunders Committee Co-Counsel
Analysis of:	First Edition		

OVERVIEW: Senate Bill 808 would make several changes to the statutes governing the North Carolina Board of Cosmetic Art Examiners (Board)'s licensing requirements, including the following:

- Reduces the number of hours of education in a cosmetology curriculum required for licensure as a cosmetologist from 1,500 to 1,200 and eliminates the apprentice license.
- Reduces the number of hours required for a cosmetology teacher or esthetician license from 800 and 650 hours, respectively, to 500 hours.
- Creates a new hair design license and hair design teacher license, and allows for reduced training requirements for a hair designer to obtain an esthetics or manicuring license.
- Eliminates licensure for natural hair care specialists and establishes a certification for natural hair specialists, which replaces the 300-hour curriculum for licensure with a 10-hour infection control curriculum.

CURRENT LAW AND BILL ANALYSIS: The North Carolina Board of Cosmetic Art Examiners regulates and licenses individuals who practice or teach in the fields of cosmetology, esthetics, natural hair care, and manicuring.

Section 1 of the bill would make changes to the Board's requirements for licensure and continuing education for various licenses as follows:

All licenses

This section would reduce the required continuing education for all licensees from eight hours to four hours per year. A licensee who has at least 20 consecutive years of experience would be exempt from continuing education.

Cosmetologists

This section would eliminate the apprentice license for cosmetologists and reduce the required curriculum for licensure as a cosmetologist from 1,500 hours to 1,200 hours. This section would also reduce the required continuing education for cosmetologists from 24 to 12 hours per three-year licensing cycle. This section would also reduce the hours required for a cosmetology teacher curriculum from 800 to 500.

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Hair designers

This section would create a new license for hair designers, which allows the holder to engage in the same hair care scope of practice as a cosmetologist, plus waxing of the face, but not esthetics or manicuring. The license would require completion of a 900-hour hair design curriculum, passage of an exam, and payment of a \$10 fee. This section would also establish a hair design teacher license, which would require either a year of practice experience immediately prior to application or completion of a 500-hour teacher curriculum.

A hair designer could obtain an esthetician license by completing a 300-hour esthetics curriculum, instead of the standard 600-hour esthetics curriculum, and a manicurist license by completing a 100-hour manicurist curriculum, instead of the standard 300-hour manicurist curriculum.

A hair designer would be required to complete four hours of continuing education each year, but a hair designer who (i) has practiced for at least 10 consecutive years, and is 60 years of age or older, or (ii) has at least 20 consecutive years of experience, would be exempt from continuing education.

Natural hair care specialists

This section would eliminate the licensure requirement for natural hair care specialists, which under current law requires completion of a 300-hour natural hair care curriculum, and would instead create a certification, which would require completion of a 10-hour infection control curriculum and passage of an infection control exam. The license for a natural hair care teacher would be eliminated. The fee for certification would be \$10 per year, the same as the current licensure fee. The Board would be directed to offer or approve a 10-hour course in infection control for natural hair care specialists and make available at least one qualifying course on its website for free.

A certified natural hair care specialist would be required to complete four hours of continuing education per year.

Estheticians

This section would reduce the hours required for an esthetician teacher curriculum from 650 to 500.

Section 2 would make a conforming change to reflect the infection control certification for natural hair care specialists.

Section 3 would automatically transition apprentice licenses to cosmetology licenses and natural hair care specialist licenses to infection control certifications on October 1, 2026. This section would also require the Board to adopt rules and post information on its website about (i) elimination of the apprentice license, (ii) elimination of the natural hair care specialist license and transition to certification, (iii) the infection control course for newly certified natural hair care specialists, and (iv) instructions for accessing at least one free Board-approved infection control course.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Sections 1 and 2 of this act would become effective October 1, 2026. The remainder of this act would be effective when it becomes law.