



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

<b>Committee:</b>	House Regulatory Reform. If favorable, re-refer to Finance. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	June 9, 2026
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Sens. Galey, Moffitt, Sanderson	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Chris Saunders
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to Fourth Edition S808-CSTQf-61		Committee Co-Counsel

**OVERVIEW:** *The Proposed Committee Substitute to 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:*

- *Adds a definition of "hair braiding" and clarifies the definition of "natural hair care".*
- *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 of education in a natural hair care specialist curriculum from 300 hours to 100 hours.*
- *Creates a new certification for hair braiders with a 24-hour educational curriculum, which can count towards the educational requirements for a natural hair care specialist.*
- *Reduces the number of hours required for a cosmetology teacher or esthetician teacher 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.*
- *Allows the licensing and operation of mobile cosmetic art shops.*

**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 PCS 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 certified hair braider would also be required to receive four hours of continuing education per year. A licensee who has at least 20 consecutive years of active practice experience would

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be exempt from continuing education, but must report any continuing education classes completed to the Board.

## **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.

## **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.

## **Natural hair care specialists and hair braiders**

This section would create a new definition for "hair braiding" and modify the definition of "natural hair care."

Hair braiding would be defined as:

A service that results in tension on hair strands or roots by braiding, twisting, or wrapping the hair by hand or a mechanical device. Hair braiding is the intertwining of hair into a patterned style, which may include the addition of decorative or non-structural elements such as beads, thread, or ornaments, provided they do not alter the natural hair or require chemicals, adhesives, or heat used on natural hair so that the natural hair is not permanently altered. Hair braiding also includes minor trimming of hair or hair extensions incidental to the braiding of hair.

The revised definition of natural hair care would be:

A service that involves the manipulation of hair strands or roots by braiding, corn rows, locks, knots, twisting, wrapping, heating, arranging, rolling, blow-drying, track and sew method for a weft of hair, or extending the hair by hand or mechanical device.

This section would also create a new certification for hair braiders, which would require a 24-hour educational curriculum. A hair braider certification would have a fee of \$5/year.

This section would also reduce the required curriculum for licensure as a natural hair care specialist from 300 hours to 100 hours, and the teacher curriculum for licensure as a natural hair care teacher from 320 hours to 200 hours.

A licensed natural hair care specialist or certified hair braider could practice outside of a cosmetic art shop at fairs, street festivals, holiday festivals, agricultural festivals, farmers markets, balloon races, local fundraisers, and other similar events approved by the Board.

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## Estheticians

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

## Mobile cosmetic art shops

This section would create a new license for a mobile cosmetic art shop, defined as "a motor home as defined in Article 1 of Chapter 20 of the General Statutes that is used for the practice of cosmetic art for pay or reward, whether direct or indirect." The Board would be directed to adopt rules for operation, permitting, and inspection of mobile cosmetic art shops. A mobile cosmetic art shop could not provide services while moving and would be required to be equipped with a functional sink and toilet facilities. The operator of a mobile cosmetic art shop would have to provide to the Board a monthly itinerary listing locations, dates, and hours of operation for the mobile cosmetic art shop. The application fee for a new mobile cosmetic art shop would be \$25 and the license fee would be \$3 per year per active booth (these fees are the same as for a standard cosmetic art shop).

**Section 2** would make a conforming change to reflect the new hair braider certification.

**Section 3** would automatically transition apprentice licenses to cosmetology licenses on December 31, 2026. This section would also require the Board to adopt rules and post information on its website about elimination of the apprentice license.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Sections 1 and 2 of this act would become effective December 31, 2026. The remainder of this act would be effective when it becomes law.