



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 Finance. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	June 30, 2026
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Sens. Galey, Moffitt, Sanderson	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Chris Saunders Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to Fifth Edition S808-CSTQf-64		

**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 natural hair care specialist curriculum from 300 hours to 150 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.*

*The PCS makes the following changes from the Fifth Edition:*

- *Maintains apprenticeship licensure for cosmetologists and keeps the cosmetology curriculum at the 1,500 hours required under current law.*
- *Makes clarifying changes to the definitions of "hair braiding" and "natural hair care".*
- *Makes the following changes to training requirements:*
  - *Hair designer license: Increase from 900 hours to 1,000 hours.*
  - *Esthetician license for a hair designer: Increase from 300 hours to 475 hours.*
  - *Manicurist license for a hair designer: Increase from 100 hours to 200 hours.*
  - *Natural hair care specialist: Increase from 100 hours to 150 hours.*
- *Increases hair braider certification fee from \$5/year to \$10/year.*

Kara McCraw  
Director



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Legislative Analysis  
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# Senate 808 PCS

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

## **Cosmetologists**

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, but not esthetics or manicuring. The license would require completion of a 1000-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 475-hour esthetics curriculum, instead of the standard 600-hour esthetics curriculum, and a manicurist license by completing a 200-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. 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. Natural hair care also includes minor trimming of hair or hair extensions incidental to the braiding of hair. For purposes of this definition, the phrase "natural hair care" includes the use of artificial or natural hair.

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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 \$10/year.

This section would also reduce the required curriculum for licensure as a natural hair care specialist from 300 hours to 150 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 hair braiding 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.

## **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 \$50 per year.

**Sections 2 and 3** would make a conforming change to the barber statutes to reflect the new hair braider certification and allow the Board of Barber and Electrolysis Examiners adopt rules to implement the conforming change.

**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.