

**House File 2094 - Introduced**

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BY PETTENGILL

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act exempting natural hair braiding from the cosmetology  
2 licensing requirements.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 157.1, subsection 5, paragraph a, Code  
2 2016, is amended to read as follows:

3 a. Arranging, braiding, dressing, curling, waving, press  
4 and curl hair straightening, shampooing, cutting, singeing,  
5 bleaching, coloring, or similar works, upon the hair of any  
6 person, or upon a wig or hairpiece when done in conjunction  
7 with haircutting or hairstyling by any means. "Cosmetology"  
8 does not include natural hair braiding.

9 Sec. 2. Section 157.1, Code 2016, is amended by adding the  
10 following new subsections:

11 NEW SUBSECTION. 19A. "*Mechanical device*" means a clip,  
12 comb, curler, curling iron, hairpin, roller, scissors, needle,  
13 thread, or hair binder.

14 NEW SUBSECTION. 24A. "*Natural hair braiding*" means  
15 twisting, wrapping, weaving, extending, locking, or braiding  
16 hair by hand or with a mechanical device. "*Natural hair*  
17 *braiding*", also known as "African-style hair braiding", is  
18 not limited to any particular cultural, ethnic, racial, or  
19 religious forms of hair styles.

20 a. "*Natural hair braiding*" includes:

21 (1) The use of natural or synthetic hair extensions, natural  
22 or synthetic hair and fibers, decorative beads, or other hair  
23 accessories.

24 (2) Minor trimming of natural hair or hair extensions  
25 incidental to twisting, wrapping, weaving, extending, locking,  
26 or braiding hair.

27 (3) The use of topical agents such as conditioners, gels,  
28 moisturizers, oils, pomades, and shampoos.

29 (4) The making of wigs from natural hair, natural fibers,  
30 synthetic fibers, or hair extensions.

31 b. "*Natural hair braiding*" does not include:

32 (1) The application of dyes, reactive chemicals, or other  
33 preparations to alter the color of the hair or to straighten,  
34 curl, or alter the structure of the hair.

35 (2) The use of chemical hair joining agents such as

1 synthetic tape, keratin bonds, or fusion bonds.

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EXPLANATION

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The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with

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the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

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Generally, a person practicing cosmetology on a more than

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casual basis, regardless of whether the person is compensated,

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is required to be licensed with the board of cosmetology arts

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and sciences. This bill defines "natural hair braiding" and

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"mechanical device" and exempts "natural hair braiding" from

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the definition of cosmetology in Code chapter 157.