

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

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SENATE BILL 808
Regulatory Reform Committee Substitute Adopted 4/28/26
Finance Committee Substitute Adopted 4/29/26

Short Title: Board of Cosmetic Art Examiners Amendments.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 22, 2026

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO DEREGULATE NATURAL HAIR CARE; TO LICENSE HAIR DESIGNERS;
3 TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF TRAINING REQUIRED FOR COSMETOLOGISTS;
4 AND TO ELIMINATE LICENSURE AS AN APPRENTICE, AS RECOMMENDED BY
5 THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE OVERSIGHT
6 COMMITTEE; AND TO ALLOW MOBILE COSMETIC ART SHOPS.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 SECTION 1. Chapter 88B of the General Statutes, as amended by S.L. 2025-20,
9 reads as rewritten:

10 "Chapter 88B.

11 "Cosmetic Art.

12 "§ 88B-1. Short title.

13 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the North Carolina Cosmetic Art Act.

14 "§ 88B-2. Definitions.

15 The following definitions apply in this Chapter:

- 16 (1) ~~Apprentice. — A person who is not a manager or operator and who is engaged~~
17 ~~in learning the practice of cosmetic art under the direction and supervision of~~
18 ~~a cosmetologist.~~
- 19 (2) Board. — The North Carolina Board of Cosmetic Art Examiners.
- 20 (3) Booth. — A workstation located within a licensed cosmetic art shop or mobile
21 cosmetic art shop that is operated primarily by one individual in performing
22 cosmetic art services for consumers.
- 23 (4) Booth renter. — A person who rents a booth in a cosmetic art ~~shop~~ shop or
24 mobile cosmetic art shop.
- 25 (5) Cosmetic art. — All or any part or combination of ~~cosmetology, hair design,~~
26 esthetics, natural hair care, or manicuring, including the systematic
27 manipulation with the hands or mechanical apparatus of the scalp, face, neck,
28 shoulders, hands, and feet. Practices included within this subdivision shall not
29 include the practice of massage or bodywork therapy as set forth in Article 36
30 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes.
- 31 (6) Cosmetic art school. — Any building or part thereof where cosmetic art is
32 taught.
- 33 (7) Cosmetic art shop. — Any building or part thereof where cosmetic art is
34 practiced for pay or reward, whether direct or indirect.



- 1 (8) Cosmetologist. – Any individual who is licensed to practice all parts of
2 cosmetic art.
- 3 ~~(8a) Cosmetology. – The act of arranging, dressing, curling, waving, cleansing,
4 cutting, singeing, bleaching, coloring, or similar work upon the hair of a
5 person by any means, including the use of hands, mechanical or electrical
6 apparatus, or appliances or by use of cosmetic or chemical preparations or
7 antiseptics.~~
- 8 (9) Cosmetology teacher. – An individual licensed by the Board to teach all parts
9 of cosmetic art.
- 10 (10) Esthetician. – An individual licensed by the Board to practice only that part of
11 cosmetic art that constitutes skin care.
- 12 (11) Esthetician teacher. – An individual licensed by the Board to teach only that
13 part of cosmetic art that constitutes skin care.
- 14 (11a) Esthetics. – Refers to any of the following practices: giving facials; applying
15 makeup; performing skin care; removing superfluous hair from the body of a
16 person by use of creams, tweezers, or waxing; applying eyelashes to a person,
17 including the application of eyelash extensions, brow or lash color;
18 beautifying the face, neck, arms, or upper part of the human body by use of
19 cosmetic preparations, antiseptics, tonics, lotions, or creams; surface
20 manipulation in relation to skin care; or cleaning or stimulating the face, neck,
21 ears, arms, hands, bust, torso, legs, or feet of a person by means of hands,
22 devices, apparatus, or appliances along with the use of cosmetic preparations,
23 antiseptics, tonics, lotions, or creams.
- 24 (11b) Hair design. – The act of (i) arranging, dressing, curling, waving, cleansing,
25 cutting, singeing, bleaching, coloring, or similar work upon the hair of a
26 person by any means, including the use of hands, mechanical or electrical
27 apparatus, or appliances or by use of cosmetic or chemical preparations or
28 antiseptics; or (ii) removing superfluous hair from the face of a person by use
29 of waxing.
- 30 (11c) Hair design teacher. – An individual licensed by the Board to teach hair
31 design.
- 32 (11d) Hair designer. – An individual licensed by the Board to practice only that part
33 of cosmetic art that constitutes hair design.
- 34 (11e) Licensee. – An individual who holds one or more licenses or certifications
35 issued by the Board.
- 36 (12) Manicuring. – The care and treatment of the fingernails, toenails, cuticles on
37 fingernails and toenails, and the hands and feet, including the decoration of
38 the fingernails and the application of nail extensions and artificial nails. The
39 term "manicuring" shall not include the treatment of pathologic conditions.
- 40 (13) Manicurist. – An individual licensed by the Board to practice only that part of
41 cosmetic art that constitutes manicuring.
- 42 (14) Manicurist teacher. – An individual licensed by the Board to teach
43 manicuring.
- 44 (14a) Mobile cosmetic art shop. – A motor home as defined in Article 1 of Chapter
45 20 of the General Statutes that is used for the practice of cosmetic art for pay
46 or reward, whether direct or indirect.
- 47 (14b) Natural hair care. – A service that results in tension on hair strands or roots by
48 twisting, wrapping, extending, or locking hair by hand or mechanical device.
49 For purposes of this definition, the phrase "natural hair care" shall include the
50 use of artificial or natural hair.

- 1 ~~(14b)~~(14c) Natural hair care specialist. – An individual ~~licensed~~ certified by the Board
 2 to practice only that part of cosmetic art that constitutes natural hair care.
 3 ~~(14e) Natural hair care teacher. – An individual licensed by the Board to teach~~
 4 ~~natural hair care.~~
 5 (15) Shampooing. – The application and removal of commonly used, room
 6 temperature, liquid hair cleaning and hair conditioning products. Shampooing
 7 does not include the arranging, dressing, waving, coloring, or other treatment
 8 of the hair.

9 ...
 10 **"§ 88B-4. Powers and duties of the Board.**

11 (a) The Board shall have the following powers and duties:

- 12 (1) To administer and interpret this Chapter.
 13 (2) To adopt, amend, and repeal rules to carry out the provisions of this Chapter.
 14 (3) To examine and determine the qualifications and fitness of applicants for
 15 licensure under this Chapter.
 16 (4) To issue, renew, deny, restrict, suspend, or revoke licenses.
 17 (5) To conduct investigations of alleged violations of this Chapter or the Board's
 18 rules.
 19 (6) To collect fees required by G.S. 88B-20 and any other monies permitted by
 20 law to be paid to the Board.
 21 (7) To approve new cosmetic art schools.
 22 (7a) To adopt rules for cosmetic art schools.
 23 (8) To inspect cosmetic art ~~schools and shops~~ schools, cosmetic art shops, and
 24 mobile cosmetic art shops.
 25 (9) To adopt rules for the sanitary management and physical requirements of
 26 cosmetic art ~~shops~~ shops, mobile cosmetic art shops, and cosmetic art schools.
 27 (10) To establish a curriculum for each course of study required for the issuance of
 28 a license or certification issued under this Chapter.
 29 (11) To employ an executive director and any additional professional, clerical, or
 30 special personnel necessary to carry out the provisions of this Chapter, and to
 31 purchase or rent necessary office space, equipment, and supplies.
 32 (12) To adopt a seal.
 33 (13) To carry out any other actions authorized by this Chapter.

34 (b) A member of the Board shall have the authority to inspect cosmetic art ~~shops~~ shops,
 35 mobile cosmetic art shops, and cosmetic art schools at any reasonable hour to determine
 36 compliance with the provisions of this Chapter if the inspection is made: (i) at the request of the
 37 Board, or with the approval of the chair or the executive director as the result of a complaint
 38 made to the Board or a problem reported by an inspector, or (ii) at the request of an inspector
 39 who deems it necessary to request the assistance of a Board member and who has the prior
 40 approval of the chair or executive director to do so. A Board member who makes an inspection
 41 pursuant to this subsection shall file a report with the Board before requesting reimbursement for
 42 expenses.

43 (c) The Board shall keep a record of its proceedings relating to the issuance, renewal,
 44 denial, restriction, suspension, and revocation of ~~licenses~~ licenses and certifications. This record
 45 shall also contain each licensee's name, business and home addresses, license number, and the
 46 date the license was issued.

47 (d) The Board shall offer or approve a 10-hour course in infection control for natural hair
 48 care specialists. The Board shall make available at least one qualifying course on its website, free
 49 of charge.

50 **"§ 88B-5. Meetings and compensation of the Board.**

1 (a) Each member of the Board shall receive compensation for services and expenses as
2 provided in G.S. 93B-5, but shall be limited to payment for services deemed official business of
3 the Board when such business exceeds three continuous hours per day. Official business of the
4 Board includes meetings called by the chair and time spent inspecting cosmetic art ~~shops and~~
5 shops, mobile cosmetic art shops, and cosmetic art schools as permitted by this Chapter. No
6 payment for per diem or travel expenses shall be authorized or paid for Board meetings other
7 than those called by the chair. The Board may annually select one member to attend a national
8 state board of cosmetic arts meeting on official business of the Board. No other Board members
9 shall be authorized to attend trade shows or to travel out-of-state at the Board's expense.

10 (b) The Board shall hold four regular meetings a year in the months of January, April,
11 July, and October. The chair may call additional meetings whenever necessary.

12 **"§ 88B-6. Board office, employees, funds, budget requirements.**

13 (a) The Board shall maintain its office in Wake County, North Carolina.

14 (b) The Board shall employ an executive director who shall not be a member of the Board.
15 The executive director shall keep all records of the Board, issue all necessary notices, and
16 perform any other duties required by the Board.

17 (c) With the approval of the Director of the Budget and the Office of State Human
18 Resources, the Board may employ as many inspectors, investigators, and other staff as necessary
19 to perform inspections and other duties prescribed by the Board. Inspectors and investigators
20 shall be experienced in all parts of cosmetic art and shall have authority to examine cosmetic art
21 ~~shops~~ shops, mobile cosmetic art shops, and cosmetic art schools during business hours to
22 determine compliance with this Chapter.

23 **"§ 88B-7. Qualifications for licensing cosmetologists.**

24 The Board shall issue a license to practice as a cosmetologist to any individual who meets all
25 of the following requirements:

26 (1) Successful completion of at least ~~1,500~~ 1,200 hours of a cosmetology
27 curriculum in an approved cosmetic art school, ~~or at least 1,200 hours of a~~
28 ~~cosmetology curriculum in an approved cosmetic art school and completion~~
29 ~~of an apprenticeship for a period of at least six months under the direct~~
30 ~~supervision of a cosmetologist, as certified by sworn affidavit of three licensed~~
31 ~~cosmetologists or by other evidence satisfactory to the Board.~~ school.

32 (2) Passage of an examination conducted by the Board.

33 (3) Payment of the fees required by G.S. 88B-20.

34 ~~**"§ 88B-8. Qualifications for licensing apprentices.**~~

35 ~~The Board shall issue a license to practice as an apprentice to any individual who meets all~~
36 ~~of the following requirements:~~

37 ~~(1) Successful completion of at least 1,200 hours of a cosmetology curriculum in~~
38 ~~an approved cosmetic art school.~~

39 ~~(2) Passage of an examination conducted by the Board.~~

40 ~~(3) Payment of the fees required by G.S. 88B-20.~~

41 **"§ 88B-8.1. Qualifications for licensing as a hair designer.**

42 The Board shall issue a license to practice as a hair designer to any individual who meets all
43 of the following requirements:

44 (1) Successful completion of at least 900 hours of a hair design curriculum in an
45 approved cosmetic art school.

46 (2) Passage of an examination conducted by the Board.

47 (3) Payment of the fees required by G.S. 88B-20.

48 **"§ 88B-9. Qualifications for licensing as an esthetician.**

49 The Board shall issue a license to practice as an esthetician to any individual who meets all
50 of the following requirements:

1 (1) Successful completion of at least 600 hours of an esthetics curriculum in an
2 approved cosmetic art ~~school~~school, or, for a licensed hair designer,
3 successful completion of at least 300 hours of an esthetics curriculum in an
4 approved cosmetic art school.

5 (2) Passage of an examination conducted by the Board.

6 (3) Payment of the fees required by G.S. 88B-20.

7 **"§ 88B-10. Qualifications for licensing manicurists.**

8 The Board shall issue a license to practice as a manicurist to any individual who meets all of
9 the following requirements:

10 (1) Successful completion of at least 300 hours of a manicurist curriculum in an
11 approved cosmetic art ~~school~~school, or, for a licensed hair designer,
12 successful completion of at least 100 hours of a manicurist curriculum in an
13 approved cosmetic art school.

14 (2) Passage of an examination conducted by the Board.

15 (3) Payment of the fees required by G.S. 88B-20.

16 **"§ 88B-10.1. Qualifications for ~~licensing~~ certifying natural hair care specialists.**

17 The Board shall issue a ~~license to practice as a~~ an infection control certification for a natural
18 hair care specialist to any individual who meets all of the following requirements:

19 (1) Successful completion of at least ~~300 hours of a natural hair care curriculum~~
20 ~~in an approved cosmetic art school.~~ 10 hours of an infection control curriculum
21 for natural hair care specialists.

22 (2) Passage of an infection control examination conducted by the Board.

23 (3) Payment of the fees required by G.S. 88B-20.

24 **"§ 88B-11. Qualifications for licensing teachers.**

25 (a) Applicants for any teacher's license issued by the Board shall meet all of the following
26 requirements:

27 (1) Possession of a high school diploma or a high school graduation equivalency
28 certificate.

29 (2) Payment of the fees required by G.S. 88B-20.

30 (b) The Board shall issue a license to practice as a cosmetology teacher to any individual
31 who meets the requirements of subsection (a) of this section and who meets all of the following:

32 (1) Holds in good standing a cosmetologist license issued by the Board.

33 (2) Submits proof of either practice of cosmetic art in a cosmetic art ~~shop~~shop,
34 or mobile cosmetic art shop, or any Board-approved employment capacity in
35 the cosmetic arts industry, for a period equivalent to one year of full-time work
36 immediately prior to application or successful completion of at least ~~800~~500
37 hours of a teacher curriculum in an approved cosmetic art school.

38 (3) Passes an examination for teachers conducted by the Board.

39 (b1) The Board shall issue a license to practice as a hair design teacher to any individual
40 who meets the requirements of subsection (a) of this section and who meets all of the following:

41 (1) Holds in good standing a cosmetologist or a hair designer license issued by
42 the Board.

43 (2) Submits proof of either of the following:

44 a. Practice of hair design in a cosmetic art shop or mobile cosmetic art
45 shop, or any Board-approved employment capacity in the cosmetic
46 arts industry, for a period equivalent to one year of full-time work
47 immediately prior to application.

48 b. Successful completion of at least 500 hours of a teacher curriculum in
49 an approved cosmetic art school.

50 (3) Passes an examination for teachers conducted by the Board.

1 (c) The Board shall issue a license to practice as an esthetician teacher to any individual
2 who meets the requirements of subsection (a) of this section and who meets all of the following:

3 (1) Holds in good standing a cosmetologist or an esthetician license issued by the
4 Board.

5 (2) Submits proof of either practice as an esthetician in a cosmetic art ~~shop, shop~~
6 or mobile cosmetic art shop, or any Board-approved employment capacity in
7 the cosmetic arts industry, for a period equivalent to one year of full-time work
8 immediately prior to application or successful completion of at least ~~650~~500
9 hours of a teacher curriculum in an approved cosmetic art school.

10 (3) Passes an examination for teachers conducted by the Board.

11 (d) The Board shall issue a license to practice as a manicurist teacher to any individual
12 who meets the requirements of subsection (a) of this section and who meets all of the following:

13 (1) Holds in good standing a cosmetologist or manicurist license issued by the
14 Board.

15 (2) Submits proof of either practice as a manicurist in a cosmetic art ~~shop, shop~~
16 or mobile cosmetic art shop, or any Board-approved employment capacity in
17 the cosmetic arts industry, for a period equivalent to one year of full-time work
18 immediately prior to application or successful completion of at least 320 hours
19 of a teacher curriculum in an approved cosmetic art school.

20 (3) Passes an examination for teachers conducted by the Board.

21 ~~(e) The Board shall issue a license to practice as a natural hair care teacher to any~~
22 ~~individual who meets the requirements of subsection (a) of this section and who meets all of the~~
23 ~~following:~~

24 ~~(1) Holds in good standing a natural hair care license issued by the Board.~~

25 ~~(2) Submits proof of either practice as a natural hair care specialist in a cosmetic~~
26 ~~art shop or any Board approved employment capacity in the cosmetic art~~
27 ~~industry for a period equivalent to one year of full time work immediately~~
28 ~~prior to application or successful completion of at least 320 hours of a teacher~~
29 ~~curriculum in an approved cosmetic art school.~~

30 ~~(3) Passes an examination for teachers conducted by the Board.~~

31 **"§ 88B-12. Temporary employment permit; extensions; limits on practice.**

32 (a) The Board shall issue a temporary employment permit to an applicant for licensure
33 as ~~an apprentice, a~~ cosmetologist, hair designer, esthetician, ~~natural hair care specialist, or~~
34 manicurist who meets all of the following:

35 (1) Has completed the required hours of a cosmetic art school curriculum in the
36 area in which the applicant wishes to be licensed.

37 (2) Has applied to take the examination within three months of completing the
38 required hours.

39 (3) Is qualified to take the examination.

40 (b) A temporary employment permit shall expire six months from the date of graduation
41 from a cosmetic art school and shall not be renewed.

42 (c) The holder of a temporary employment permit may practice cosmetic art only under
43 the supervision of a licensed cosmetologist, hair designer, manicurist, ~~natural hair care specialist,~~
44 or esthetician, as appropriate, and may not operate a cosmetic art shop.

45 **"§ 88B-13. Applicants licensed in other states.**

46 (a) The Board shall issue a license to an applicant licensed as ~~an apprentice, a~~
47 cosmetologist, hair designer, esthetician, ~~natural hair care specialist,~~ or manicurist in another
48 state if the applicant shows:

49 (1) The applicant is an active practitioner in good standing.

50 (2) The applicant has practiced at least one of the three years immediately
51 preceding the application for a license.

1 (3) There is no disciplinary proceeding or unresolved complaint pending against
2 the applicant at the time a license is to be issued by this State.

3 (4) The licensure requirements in the state in which the applicant is licensed are
4 substantially equivalent to those required by this State.

5 (b) Instead of meeting the requirements in subsection (a) of this section, any applicant
6 who is licensed as a cosmetologist, hair designer, esthetician, natural hair care specialist, or
7 manicurist in another state shall be admitted to practice in this State under the same reciprocity
8 or comity provisions that the state in which the applicant is licensed grants to persons licensed in
9 this State.

10 (c) The Board may establish standards for issuing a license to an applicant who is licensed
11 as a teacher in another state. These standards shall include a requirement that the licensure
12 requirements in the state in which the teacher is licensed shall be substantially equivalent to those
13 required in this State and that the applicant shall be licensed by the Board to practice in the area
14 in which the applicant is licensed to teach.

15 **"§ 88B-14. Licensing of cosmetic art shops, shops and mobile cosmetic art shops.**

16 (a) The Board shall issue a license to operate a cosmetic art shop or mobile cosmetic art
17 shop to any applicant who submits a properly completed application, on a form approved by the
18 Board, pays the required fee, and is determined, after inspection, to be in compliance with the
19 provisions of this Chapter and the Board's rules.

20 (b) The applicant shall list all licensees who practice cosmetic art in the shop or mobile
21 cosmetic art shop and shall identify each as an employee or a booth renter.

22 (c) A cosmetic art shop or mobile cosmetic art shop shall be allowed to operate for a
23 period of 30 days while the Board inspects and determines the shop's or mobile cosmetic art
24 shop's compliance with this Chapter and the Board's rules. If the Board is unable to complete the
25 inspection within 30 days, the shop or mobile cosmetic art shop will be authorized to operate
26 until such an inspection can be completed.

27 (d) A license to operate a cosmetic art shop or mobile cosmetic art shop shall not be
28 transferable from one location to another or from one owner to another.

29 **"§ 88B-15. Practice outside cosmetic art shops.**

30 (a) Any individual licensed or certified under this Chapter may visit the residences of
31 individuals who are sick or disabled and confined to their places of residence in order to attend
32 to their cosmetic needs. A licensed or certified individual may also visit hospitals, nursing homes,
33 rest homes, retirement homes, mental institutions, correctional facilities, funeral homes, and
34 similar institutions to attend to the cosmetic needs of those in these institutions.

35 (b) An individual licensed or certified under this Chapter may practice in a licensed
36 barbershop as permitted by ~~G.S. 86A-14~~. G.S. 86B-32.

37 (c) A natural hair care specialist certified under this Chapter may practice natural hair
38 care at fairs, street festivals, holiday festivals, agricultural festivals, farmers markets, balloon
39 racers, local fundraisers, and other similar events approved by the Board.

40 **"§ 88B-15A. Mobile cosmetic art shops.**

41 (a) The Board shall issue a license to operate a mobile cosmetic art shop to any applicant
42 who submits a properly completed application on a form approved by the Board, pays the
43 required fee, and is determined after inspection to be in compliance with the provisions of this
44 Chapter and the Board's rules.

45 (b) The Board shall adopt rules for the operation, permitting, and inspection of mobile
46 cosmetic art shops, including standards for facilities, personnel, and safety and sanitary
47 requirements. All permitting and operating requirements provided by this Chapter or by rules
48 adopted by the Board pursuant to this Chapter that apply to cosmetic art shops shall also apply
49 to mobile cosmetic art shops, except to the extent that the requirements conflict with this section
50 or with any rules adopted by the Board pursuant to this section.

(c) In addition to the requirements of this Chapter, individuals and the vehicles they operate while providing mobile cosmetic art services shall be subject to the provisions of (i) Chapter 20 of the General Statutes, (ii) Title 19A of the North Carolina Administrative Code, (iii) all applicable OSHA requirements, and (iv) all local laws and ordinances regulating business establishments.

(d) A mobile cosmetic art shop must be equipped with a functional sink and toilet facilities and must maintain an adequate supply of clean water and wastewater storage capacity.

(e) No cosmetic art service may be performed in a mobile cosmetic art shop while the mobile cosmetic art shop is moving. The mobile cosmetic art shop must be safely parked in a legal parking spot at all times while patrons are present inside the mobile cosmetic art shop.

(f) A mobile cosmetic art shop owner must maintain a permanent business address at which records of appointments, itineraries, license numbers, and vehicle identification numbers for each mobile cosmetic art shop being operated shall be kept and made available for verification and inspection by the Board and at which all correspondence from the Board can be received.

(g) To facilitate periodic inspections of mobile cosmetic art shops, prior to the beginning of each month, the owner of the mobile cosmetic art shop shall provide to the Board a written monthly itinerary listing locations, dates, and hours of operation for the mobile cosmetic art shop.

...

"§ 88B-18. Examinations.

(a) Repealed by Session Laws 2006-212, s. 2, effective August 8, 2006.

(b) Each examination shall have both a practical and a written portion.

(c) Examinations for applicants for ~~apprentice~~, cosmetologist, hair designer, teacher, esthetician, natural hair care specialist, and manicurist licenses shall be given in at least three locations in the State that are geographically scattered. The examinations shall be administered in Board-approved facilities.

(d) An applicant for a cosmetologist, hair designer, esthetician, manicurist, ~~natural hair care specialist~~, or teacher's ~~license~~ license, or natural hair care specialist certification, who fails to pass the examination three times may not reapply to take the examination again until after the applicant has successfully completed any additional requirements prescribed by the Board.

"§ 88B-19. Expired school credits.

No credit shall be approved by the Board if five years or more have elapsed from the date a person enrolled in a cosmetic art school unless the person completed the required number of hours and filed an application to take an examination administered by the Board.

"§ 88B-20. Fees required.

(a) The Board may charge the applicant the actual cost of preparation, administration, and grading of examinations for cosmetologists, ~~apprentices~~, hair designers, manicurists, estheticians, natural hair care ~~specialist~~, specialists, or teachers, in addition to its other fees.

(b) The Board may charge application fees as follows:

(1) Inspection of a newly established cosmetic art shop \$ 25.00

(1a) Inspection of a newly established mobile cosmetic art shop \$ 25.00

(2) Reciprocity applicant under G.S. 88B-13 \$ 15.00.

(c) The Board may charge license and certification fees as follows:

(1) Cosmetologist.....\$ 39.00 every 3 years

(2) ~~Apprentice~~.....\$ 10.00 per year

(2a) Hair designer \$ 10.00 per year

(3) Esthetician \$ 10.00 per year

(4) Manicurist \$ 10.00 per year

(4a) Natural hair care specialist \$ 10.00 per year

(5) Teacher \$ 10.00 every 2 years

(6) Cosmetic art shop per active booth \$ 3.00 per year

- 1 (6a) Mobile cosmetic art shop per active booth \$ 3.00 per year
- 2 (7) Cosmetic art school \$ 50.00 per year
- 3 (8) Duplicate license \$ 1.00.
- 4 (d) The Board may require payment of late fees and reinstatement fees as follows:
- 5 (1) ~~Apprentice, cosmetologist,~~ Cosmetologist, hair designer, esthetician,
- 6 manicurist,
- 7 natural hair care specialist, and teacher late renewal \$ 10.00
- 8 (2) Cosmetic art schools and shops and mobile cosmetic art
- 9 shops late renewal \$ 10.00
- 10 (3) Reinstatement – cosmetic art schools and shops and mobile cosmetic art shops
- 11 \$ 25.00.

12 (e) The Board may prorate fees as appropriate.

13 **"§ 88B-21. Renewals; expired licenses; inactive status.**

14 (a) Each license to operate a cosmetic art shop or mobile cosmetic art shop shall be
 15 renewed on or before the first day of February of each year. As provided in G.S. 88B-20, a late
 16 fee shall be charged for licenses renewed after February 1. Any license not renewed by March 1
 17 of each year shall expire. A cosmetic art shop or mobile cosmetic art shop whose license has
 18 been expired for one year or less shall have the license reinstated immediately upon payment of
 19 the reinstatement fee, the late fee, and all unpaid license fees. The licensee shall submit to the
 20 Board, as a part of the renewal process, a list of all licensed cosmetologists who practice cosmetic
 21 art in the shop and shall identify each as an employee or a booth renter.

22 (b) Cosmetologist licenses shall be renewed on or before October 1 every three years
 23 beginning October 1, 1998. A late fee shall be charged for renewals after that date. Any license
 24 not renewed shall expire on October 1 of the year that renewal is required. The Board may
 25 develop and implement a plan for staggered license renewal and may prorate license fees to
 26 implement such a plan.

27 (c) ~~Apprentice, Hair designer,~~ esthetician, natural hair care specialist, and manicurist
 28 licenses or certifications shall be renewed annually on or before October 1 of each year. A late
 29 fee shall be charged for the renewal of licenses or certifications after that date. Any license or
 30 certification not renewed shall expire on October 1 of that year.

31 (d) Teacher licenses shall be renewed every two years on or before October 1. A late fee
 32 shall be charged for the renewal of licenses after that date. Any license not renewed shall expire
 33 on October 1 of that year.

34 (e) Prior to renewal of a certification or license, a teacher, cosmetologist, hair designer,
 35 esthetician, natural hair care specialist, or manicurist shall annually complete ~~eight~~ four hours of
 36 Board-approved continuing education for each year of the licensing cycle. A cosmetologist may
 37 complete up to ~~24 hours~~ 12 hours of required continuing education at any time within the
 38 cosmetologist's three-year licensing cycle. Licensees shall submit written documentation to the
 39 Board showing that they have satisfied the requirements of this subsection. A licensee who is in
 40 active practice as a cosmetologist, hair designer, esthetician, natural hair care specialist, or
 41 manicurist, has practiced for at least 10 consecutive years in that profession, and is 60 years of
 42 age or older does not have to meet the continuing education requirements of this subsection. A
 43 licensee who is in active practice as a ~~cosmetologist~~ cosmetologist, hair designer, esthetician,
 44 natural hair care specialist, or manicurist and has at least 20 consecutive years of experience as a
 45 ~~cosmetologist, in that profession,~~ does not have to meet the continuing education requirements
 46 of this subsection, but shall report any continuing education classes completed to the Board,
 47 whether the continuing education classes are Board-approved or not. Promotion of products and
 48 systems shall be allowed at continuing education given in-house or at trade shows. Continuing
 49 education classes may also be offered in secondary languages as needed. No member of the Board
 50 may offer continuing education courses as required by this section.

1 (f) If ~~an apprentice,~~ a cosmetologist, hair designer, esthetician, manicurist, natural hair
2 care specialist, or teacher fails to renew his or her license or certification within five years
3 following the expiration date, the licensee shall be required to pass an examination as prescribed
4 by the Board before the license will be reinstated.

5 (g) Cosmetic art school licenses shall be renewed on or before October 1 of each year. A
6 late fee shall be charged for licenses renewed after that date. Any license not renewed by
7 November 1 of that year shall expire. A cosmetic art school whose license has been expired for
8 one year or less shall have its license reinstated upon payment of the reinstatement fee, the late
9 fee, and all unpaid license fees.

10 (h) Upon request by a licensee for inactive status, the Board may place the licensee's
11 name on the inactive list so long as the licensee is in good standing with the Board. An inactive
12 licensee is not required to complete continuing education requirements. An inactive licensee shall
13 not practice cosmetic art for consideration. However, the inactive licensee may continue to
14 purchase supplies as accorded an active licensee. When the inactive licensee desires to be
15 removed from the inactive list and return to active practice, the inactive licensee shall notify the
16 Board of his or her desire to return to active status and pay the required fee as determined by the
17 Board. As a condition of returning to active status, the Board may require the licensee to complete
18 eight to 24 hours of continuing education pursuant to subsection (e) of this section.

19 **"§ 88B-22. Licenses and certifications required; criminal penalty.**

20 (a) Except as provided in this Chapter, no person may practice or attempt to practice
21 cosmetic art for pay or reward in any form, either directly or indirectly, without being licensed
22 or certified as an apprentice, a cosmetologist, hair designer, esthetician, natural hair care
23 specialist, or manicurist by the Board.

24 (b) Except as provided in this Chapter, no person may practice cosmetic art or any part
25 of cosmetic art, for pay or reward in any form, either directly or indirectly, outside of a licensed
26 cosmetic art ~~shop-shop~~ or mobile cosmetic art shop.

27 (c) No person may open or operate a cosmetic art shop or mobile cosmetic art shop in
28 this State unless a license has been issued by the Board for that ~~shop-shop~~ or mobile cosmetic art
29 shop.

30 (d) An individual certified or licensed as an esthetician, hair designer, natural hair care
31 specialist, or manicurist may practice only that part of cosmetic art for which the individual is
32 certified or licensed.

33 (d1) No person may teach cosmetic art in a Board-approved cosmetic art school unless the
34 person is a teacher licensed under this Chapter. A guest lecturer may be exempt from the
35 requirements of this subsection upon approval by the Board.

36 (e) ~~An apprentice licensed under the provisions of this Chapter shall apprentice under the~~
37 ~~direct supervision of a cosmetologist. An apprentice shall not operate a cosmetic art shop.~~

38 (f) A violation of this Chapter is a Class 3 misdemeanor.

39 **"§ 88B-23. Licenses and certifications to be posted.**

40 (a) Every ~~apprentice,~~ cosmetologist, hair designer, esthetician, manicurist, ~~natural hair~~
41 ~~care specialist,~~ and teacher licensed under this Chapter shall display the certificate of license
42 issued by the Board within the shop in which the person works.

43 (b) Every certificate of license to operate a cosmetic art ~~shop or shop,~~ mobile cosmetic
44 art shop, or cosmetic art school shall be conspicuously posted in the shop or school for which it
45 is issued.

46 (c) Every natural hair care specialist shall conspicuously display the infection control
47 certification issued by the Board at any place where the natural hair care specialist is practicing
48 natural hair care.

49 **"§ 88B-24. Revocation of licenses and other disciplinary measures.**

50 The Board may restrict, suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue, renew, or reinstate any license
51 for any of the following:

- 1 (1) Conviction of a felony shown by certified copy of the record of the court of
2 conviction.
- 3 (2) Gross malpractice or gross incompetency as determined by the Board.
- 4 (3) Advertising by means of knowingly false or deceptive statements.
- 5 (4) Permitting any individual to practice cosmetic art without a ~~license~~ license,
6 infection control certification, or temporary employment permit, with an
7 expired license or temporary employment permit, or with an invalid ~~license~~
8 license, infection control certification, or temporary employment permit.
- 9 (5) Obtaining or attempting to obtain a license for money or other thing of value
10 other than the required fee or by fraudulent misrepresentation.
- 11 (6) Practicing or attempting to practice by fraudulent misrepresentation.
- 12 (7) Willful failure to display a certificate of license or an infection control
13 certification as required by G.S. 88B-23.
- 14 (8) Willful violation of the rules adopted by the Board.
- 15 (9) Violation of ~~G.S. 86A-15~~ G.S. 86B-31 by a cosmetologist, hair designer,
16 esthetician, natural hair care specialist, or manicurist licensed or certified by
17 the Board and practicing cosmetic art in a barber shop.

18 **"§ 88B-25. Exemptions.**

19 The following persons are exempt from the provisions of this Chapter while engaged in the
20 proper discharge of their professional duties:

- 21 (1) Undertakers and funeral establishments licensed under G.S. 90-210.25.
- 22 (2) Persons authorized to practice medicine or surgery under Chapter 90 of the
23 General Statutes.
- 24 (3) Nurses licensed under Chapter 90 of the General Statutes.
- 25 (4) Commissioned medical or surgical officers of the United States Army, Air
26 Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Space Force, or Coast Guard.
- 27 (5) A person employed in a cosmetic art shop or mobile cosmetic art shop whose
28 duties are expressly confined to the shampooing or blow drying of hair,
29 provided that the person shall comply with rules adopted by the Board relating
30 to sanitary management of cosmetic art ~~shops~~ shops and mobile cosmetic art
31 shops.

32 **"§ 88B-26. Rules to be posted.**

33 (a) The Board shall furnish a copy of its rules relating to sanitary management of
34 cosmetic art ~~shops~~ shops, mobile cosmetic art shops, and cosmetic art schools to each ~~shop~~ shop,
35 mobile cosmetic art shop, and school licensed by the Board. Each ~~shop~~ shop, mobile cosmetic
36 art shop, and school shall post the rules in a conspicuous place.

37 (b) The Board shall furnish a copy of its rules relating to curriculum and schools to each
38 licensed cosmetic art school. Each cosmetic art school shall make these rules available to all
39 teachers and students.

40 **"§ 88B-27. Inspections.**

41 Any inspector or other authorized representative of the Board may enter any cosmetic art
42 ~~shop or shop,~~ mobile cosmetic art shop, or cosmetic art school to inspect it for compliance with
43 this Chapter and the Board's rules. All persons practicing cosmetic art in a ~~shop-shop,~~ mobile
44 cosmetic art shop, or school shall, upon request, present satisfactory proof of identification.
45 Satisfactory proof shall be in the form of a photographic driver's license or photographic
46 identification card issued by any state, federal, or other government entity. The Board may
47 require a cosmetic art ~~shop or shop,~~ mobile cosmetic art shop, or cosmetic art school to be
48 inspected as a condition for license renewal.

49"

50 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 86B-32 reads as rewritten:

51 **"§ 86B-32. Persons exempt from the provisions of this Article.**

1 The following persons are exempt from the provisions of this Article while engaged in the
2 proper discharge of their duties:

- 3 (1) Persons authorized under the laws of the State to practice medicine and
4 surgery, and those working under their supervision.
- 5 (2) Commissioned medical or surgical officers of the United States Army or other
6 components of the Armed Forces of the United States, and those working
7 under their supervision.
- 8 (3) Registered nurses and licensed practical nurses and those working under their
9 supervision.
- 10 (4) Licensed embalmers and funeral directors and those working under their
11 supervision.
- 12 (5) Persons who are working in licensed cosmetic shops or beauty schools and
13 are licensed or certified by the State Board of Cosmetic Art Examiners
14 pursuant to Chapter 88B of the General Statutes.
- 15 (6) Persons who are working in barbershops and are licensed or certified by the
16 State Board of Cosmetic Art Examiners pursuant to Chapter 88B of the
17 General Statutes, provided that those persons shall comply with G.S. 86B-31.
- 18 (7) Inmates under the jurisdiction of the North Carolina Department of Adult
19 Correction.
- 20 (8) Persons who are employed by barbershops and whose duties are expressly
21 confined to the shampooing or blow drying of hair, provided that the person
22 shall comply with G.S. 86B-31."

23 **SECTION 3.(a)** Transition from Licenses to Certifications. – The following
24 provisions shall govern the transition from natural hair care specialist licenses previously
25 required for practice under Chapter 88B of the General Statutes to infection control certifications
26 for natural hair care specialists under this act:

- 27 (1) Automatic conversion. – All individuals holding valid natural hair care
28 specialist licenses issued by the North Carolina Board of Cosmetic Art
29 Examiners as of October 1, 2026, shall automatically be deemed to hold the
30 equivalent infection control certification under Chapter 88B of the General
31 Statutes, as amended by this act, without further examination, application,
32 fees, or additional qualification requirements. The Board shall provide any
33 individual who is deemed to hold an infection control certification under this
34 subsection with an infection control certification free of charge.
- 35 (2) Pending applications. – Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any
36 application for a natural hair care specialist license submitted to the Board
37 prior to October 1, 2026, and still pending on that date shall be granted as an
38 infection control certification if the applicant meets all of the following
39 requirements:
 - 40 a. Successful completion of at least 300 hours of a natural hair care
41 curriculum in an approved cosmetic art school.
 - 42 b. Payment of the fees required by G.S. 88B-20.

43 **SECTION 3.(b)** Transition from Apprentice Licenses to Cosmetologist Licenses. –
44 The following provisions shall govern the transition from apprentice licenses previously required
45 for practice under Chapter 88B of the General Statutes to cosmetologist licenses under this act:

- 46 (1) Automatic conversion. – All individuals holding apprentice licenses issued by
47 the North Carolina Board of Cosmetic Art Examiners as of October 1, 2026,
48 shall automatically be deemed to hold a cosmetologist license without further
49 examination, application, fees, or additional qualification requirements.
- 50 (2) Pending applications. – Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any
51 application for an apprentice license submitted to the Board prior to October

- 1, 2026, and still pending on that date shall be granted as a cosmetologist license if the applicant meets all of the following requirements:
- a. Successful completion of at least 1,200 hours of a cosmetology curriculum in an approved cosmetic art school.
 - b. Passage of an examination conducted by the Board.
 - c. Payment of the fees required by G.S. 88B-20.
- (3) Renewal of licenses. – Upon expiration of an apprentice license, the Board shall permit individuals to renew their credential as a cosmetologist license without resubmission or additional qualifications.

SECTION 3.(c) Rulemaking. – The North Carolina Board of Cosmetic Art Examiners shall adopt rules to implement the provisions of this act. The Board shall prominently post on its publicly available website information about all of the following:

- (1) The elimination of the apprentice license and transition to cosmetologist licensure.
- (2) The elimination of the natural hair care specialist license and transition to certification.
- (3) The requirement for completion of the infection control course for newly certified natural hair care specialists.
- (4) Clear instructions for accessing at least one free Board-approved infection control course that satisfies the requirements for infection control certification for natural hair care specialists.

SECTION 3.(d) Rulemaking. – The North Carolina Board of Barber and Electrolysis Examiners may adopt rules to implement Section 2 of this act.

SECTION 4. Sections 1 and 2 of this act become effective October 1, 2026. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.