



Oregon

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To: The Honorable Paul Holvey, Chair,
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Government Efficiency

From: Holly Mercer, Interim Director, Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA)

Date: March 26, 2013

Re: **HB 3409 – Natural Hair Care**

What the measure would do:

- Define natural hair care as “the braiding, cornrowing, extending, lacing, locking, sewing, twisting, weaving or wrapping of human hair, natural fibers, synthetic fibers or hair extensions through the use of hands or simple devices, such as clips, combs, hairpins or needle and thread.”
- Specifically exclude natural hair care from current statutory definitions for cosmetology, barbering and hair design.
- Authorize the Oregon Board of Cosmetology and the Oregon Health Licensing Agency to regulate the practice of natural hair care.
- Exclude natural hair care from the existing education requirements for hair design and barbering.
- Require natural hair care practitioners to obtain a facility license, meeting the same safety and sanitation requirements as all other cosmetology facilities.
- Authorize the Board of Cosmetology and the Oregon Health Licensing Agency to establish professional standards for natural hair care providers and to ensure compliance with the standards.

Background: Under current law, natural hair care providers are required to obtain a full hair design license, which requires 1,450 hours of education. This educational requirement covers instruction on all components of hair design practice, including the use of chemicals and colorants. Natural hair care practitioners do not typically use chemicals or colorants, using hands and simple devices to create braids and braided designs.

Solution: The Oregon Health Licensing Agency would work with the Board of Cosmetology to establish a licensing framework for natural hair care providers to ensure that providers meet the same safety and sanitation requirements as all other cosmetology licensees.

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