

HB 2587 to initiate a NATURAL NAILS CERTIFICATE

at Oregon Health Licensing Agency. Allows future Nail Technicians to choose career path of Natural Nails only. Current law stipulates all students complete both natural manicures/pedicures along with artificial chemically-bonded sculptured nails.

PROBLEM: Current curricula jointly imposed by cosmetology schools, OHLA, and the Oregon Department of Education does not allow students to opt out of artificial nails Theory, Practicum & Testing portions, even if they experience adverse allergic reactions to the hazards of breathing or touching ethyl methacrylate monomers and polymers used in artificial nails. In addition, prudent environmental consciousness and pregnancy health are other reasons to warrant this option to a new generation of nail technicians.

SOLUTION: Separate the standing Nail Tech Certificate into two components.

- 1) NATURAL NAILS TECH is focused on the health of the hands and feet (clipping, filing, exfoliation, massage, etc.) with or without traditional nail lacquer or the newer field of longer-wearing (1st & 2nd generation) “gel polish” lacquers.
- 2) SCULPTURED NAIL - ART STYLIST continues beyond the Natural Nail requirements to study and build competency in altering the chemical structure of the natural nail to “sculpt” and adorn an artificial “enhancement.”

BACKGROUND: Requiring today’s nail tech students to complete Theory, Practicum, and State testing of artificial nails that they have no intention of practicing as a client service is archaic. Artificial nails were developed roughly 35 years ago, and while quite popular in the 1980’s and 90’s, their popularity has waned greatly. While a minority of women will continue to wear artificial nails, nail trends have shifted greatly in the past decade. Short, natural nails are here to stay. At the other end of the fashion spectrum, extreme stiletto-type nails are popular for entertainers, parties, proms, and people who do not use keyboards or screen-tap phones. This Bill would allow health-conscious students to choose to pursue a Natural Nails only certification with OHLA.

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