

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  
Fourth Edition Engrossed 5/5/26  
House Committee Substitute Favorable 6/9/26

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 MODIFY THE REQUIREMENTS FOR NATURAL HAIR CARE SPECIALIST  
3 LICENSURE AND CREATE A CERTIFICATION FOR HAIR BRAIDERS; TO LICENSE  
4 HAIR DESIGNERS; TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF TRAINING REQUIRED FOR  
5 COSMETOLOGISTS; TO ELIMINATE APPRENTICE LICENSURE FOR  
6 COSMETOLOGISTS; 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, hair braiding, or manicuring, including the  
27 systematic manipulation with the hands or mechanical apparatus of the scalp,  
28 face, neck, shoulders, hands, and feet. Practices included within this  
29 subdivision shall not include the practice of massage or bodywork therapy as  
30 set forth in Article 36 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes.
- 31 (6) Cosmetic art school. — Any building or part thereof where cosmetic art is  
32 taught.



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- 1 (7) Cosmetic art shop. – Any building or part thereof where cosmetic art is  
2 practiced for pay or reward, whether direct or indirect.
- 3 (8) Cosmetologist. – Any individual who is licensed to practice all parts of  
4 cosmetic art.
- 5 (8a) ~~Cosmetology. – The act of arranging, dressing, curling, waving, cleansing,  
6 cutting, singeing, bleaching, coloring, or similar work upon the hair of a  
7 person by any means, including the use of hands, mechanical or electrical  
8 apparatus, or appliances or by use of cosmetic or chemical preparations or  
9 antiseptics.~~The practice of all parts of cosmetic art.
- 10 (9) Cosmetology teacher. – An individual licensed by the Board to teach all parts  
11 of cosmetic art.
- 12 (10) Esthetician. – An individual licensed by the Board to practice only that part of  
13 cosmetic art that constitutes skin care.
- 14 (11) Esthetician teacher. – An individual licensed by the Board to teach only that  
15 part of cosmetic art that constitutes skin care.
- 16 (11a) Esthetics. – Refers to any of the following practices: giving facials; applying  
17 makeup; performing skin care; removing superfluous hair from the body of a  
18 person by use of creams, tweezers, or waxing; applying eyelashes to a person,  
19 including the application of eyelash extensions, brow or lash color;  
20 beautifying the face, neck, arms, or upper part of the human body by use of  
21 cosmetic preparations, antiseptics, tonics, lotions, or creams; surface  
22 manipulation in relation to skin care; or cleaning or stimulating the face, neck,  
23 ears, arms, hands, bust, torso, legs, or feet of a person by means of hands,  
24 devices, apparatus, or appliances along with the use of cosmetic preparations,  
25 antiseptics, tonics, lotions, or creams.
- 26 (11b) Hair braiding. – A service that results in tension on hair strands or roots by  
27 braiding, twisting, or wrapping the hair by hand or a mechanical device. Hair  
28 braiding is the intertwining of hair into a patterned style, which may include  
29 the addition of decorative or nonstructural elements such as beads, thread, or  
30 ornaments, provided they do not alter the natural hair or require chemicals,  
31 adhesives, or heat used on natural hair so that the natural hair is not  
32 permanently altered. Hair braiding also includes minor trimming of hair or  
33 hair extensions incidental to the braiding of hair.
- 34 (11c) Hair design. – The act of arranging, dressing, curling, waving, cleansing,  
35 cutting, singeing, bleaching, coloring, or similar work upon the hair of a  
36 person by any means, including the use of hands, mechanical or electrical  
37 apparatus, or appliances or by use of cosmetic or chemical preparations or  
38 antiseptics.
- 39 (11d) Hair design teacher. – An individual licensed by the Board to teach hair  
40 design.
- 41 (11e) Hair designer. – An individual licensed by the Board to practice only that part  
42 of cosmetic art that constitutes hair design.
- 43 (11f) Licensee. – An individual who holds one or more licenses or certifications  
44 issued by the Board.
- 45 (12) Manicuring. – The care and treatment of the fingernails, toenails, cuticles on  
46 fingernails and toenails, and the hands and feet, including the decoration of  
47 the fingernails and the application of nail extensions and artificial nails. The  
48 term "manicuring" shall not include the treatment of pathologic conditions.
- 49 (13) Manicurist. – An individual licensed by the Board to practice only that part of  
50 cosmetic art that constitutes manicuring.

- 1 (14) Manicurist teacher. – An individual licensed by the Board to teach  
 2 manicuring.  
 3 (14a) Mobile cosmetic art shop. – A motor home as defined in Article 1 of Chapter  
 4 20 of the General Statutes that is used for the practice of cosmetic art for pay  
 5 or reward, whether direct or indirect.  
 6 (14b) Natural hair care. – A service that ~~results in tension on~~ involves the  
 7 manipulation of hair strands or roots by ~~twisting, wrapping, extending, or~~  
 8 ~~locking~~ braiding, corn rows, locks, knots, twisting, wrapping, heating,  
 9 arranging, rolling, blow drying, track and sew method for a weft of hair, or  
 10 extending the hair by hand or mechanical device. For purposes of this  
 11 definition, the phrase "natural hair care" shall include the use of artificial or  
 12 natural hair.  
 13 ~~(14b)~~(14c) Natural hair care specialist. – An individual licensed by the Board to  
 14 practice only that part of cosmetic art that constitutes natural hair care.  
 15 ~~(14e)~~(14d) Natural hair care teacher. – An individual licensed by the Board to teach  
 16 natural hair care.  
 17 (15) Shampooing. – The application and removal of commonly used, room  
 18 temperature, liquid hair cleaning and hair conditioning products. Shampooing  
 19 does not include the arranging, dressing, waving, coloring, or other treatment  
 20 of the hair.

21 ...

22 **"§ 88B-4. Powers and duties of the Board.**

- 23 (a) The Board shall have the following powers and duties:  
 24 (1) To administer and interpret this Chapter.  
 25 (2) To adopt, amend, and repeal rules to carry out the provisions of this Chapter.  
 26 (3) To examine and determine the qualifications and fitness of applicants for  
 27 licensure under this Chapter.  
 28 (4) To issue, renew, deny, restrict, suspend, or revoke ~~licenses~~ licenses or  
 29 certifications.  
 30 (5) To conduct investigations of alleged violations of this Chapter or the Board's  
 31 rules.  
 32 (6) To collect fees required by G.S. 88B-20 and any other monies permitted by  
 33 law to be paid to the Board.  
 34 (7) To approve new cosmetic art schools.  
 35 (7a) To adopt rules for cosmetic art schools.  
 36 (8) To inspect cosmetic art ~~schools and shops~~ schools, cosmetic art shops, and  
 37 mobile cosmetic art shops.  
 38 (9) To adopt rules for the sanitary management and physical requirements of  
 39 cosmetic art ~~shops~~ shops, mobile cosmetic art shops, and cosmetic art schools.  
 40 (10) To establish a curriculum for each course of study required for the issuance of  
 41 a license or certification issued under this Chapter.  
 42 (11) To employ an executive director and any additional professional, clerical, or  
 43 special personnel necessary to carry out the provisions of this Chapter, and to  
 44 purchase or rent necessary office space, equipment, and supplies.  
 45 (12) To adopt a seal.  
 46 (13) To carry out any other actions authorized by this Chapter.  
 47 (b) A member of the Board shall have the authority to inspect cosmetic art ~~shops~~ shops,  
 48 mobile cosmetic art shops, and cosmetic art schools at any reasonable hour to determine  
 49 compliance with the provisions of this Chapter if the inspection is made: (i) at the request of the  
 50 Board, or with the approval of the chair or the executive director as the result of a complaint  
 51 made to the Board or a problem reported by an inspector, or (ii) at the request of an inspector

1 who deems it necessary to request the assistance of a Board member and who has the prior  
2 approval of the chair or executive director to do so. A Board member who makes an inspection  
3 pursuant to this subsection shall file a report with the Board before requesting reimbursement for  
4 expenses.

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

9 **"§ 88B-5. Meetings and compensation of the Board.**

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

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

21 **"§ 88B-6. Board office, employees, funds, budget requirements.**

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

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

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

32 **"§ 88B-7. Qualifications for licensing cosmetologists.**

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

- 35 (1) Successful completion of at least ~~1,500~~1,200 hours of a cosmetology  
36 curriculum in an approved cosmetic art school, ~~or at least 1,200 hours of a~~  
37 ~~cosmetology curriculum in an approved cosmetic art school and completion~~  
38 ~~of an apprenticeship for a period of at least six months under the direct~~  
39 ~~supervision of a cosmetologist, as certified by sworn affidavit of three licensed~~  
40 ~~cosmetologists or by other evidence satisfactory to the Board.~~school.
- 41 (2) Passage of an examination conducted by the Board.
- 42 (3) Payment of the fees required by G.S. 88B-20.

43 ~~**"§ 88B-8. Qualifications for licensing apprentices.**~~

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

- 46 ~~(1) Successful completion of at least 1,200 hours of a cosmetology curriculum in~~  
47 ~~an approved cosmetic art school.~~
- 48 ~~(2) Passage of an examination conducted by the Board.~~
- 49 ~~(3) Payment of the fees required by G.S. 88B-20.~~

50 **"§ 88B-8.1. Qualifications for licensing as a hair designer.**

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

3            (1)    Successful completion of at least 900 hours of a hair design 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-9. Qualifications for licensing as an esthetician.**

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

10           (1)    Successful completion of at least 600 hours of an esthetics curriculum in an  
11                    approved cosmetic art school, school, or, for a licensed hair designer,  
12                    successful completion of at least 300 hours of an esthetics 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. Qualifications for licensing manicurists.**

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

19           (1)    Successful completion of at least 300 hours of a manicurist curriculum in an  
20                    approved cosmetic art school, school or, for a licensed hair designer,  
21                    successful completion of at least 100 hours of a manicurist curriculum in an  
22                    approved cosmetic art school.

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

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

25    **"§ 88B-10.1. Qualifications for licensing natural hair care specialists.**

26        The Board shall issue a license to practice as a natural hair care specialist to any individual  
27 who meets all of the following requirements:

28           (1)    Successful completion of at least ~~300 hours~~ 100 hours of a natural hair care  
29                    curriculum in an approved cosmetic art school, school or, for a certified hair  
30                    braider, successful completion of at least 76 hours of a natural hair care  
31                    curriculum in an approved cosmetic art 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-10.2. Qualifications for certifying hair braiders.**

35        The Board shall issue a certification to practice as a hair braider to any individual who meets  
36 all of the following requirements:

37           (1)    Successful completion of at least 24 hours of a hair braiding curriculum in an  
38                    approved cosmetic art school or an approved course offered by the Board.

39           (2)    Passage of a hair braider certification examination conducted by the Board.

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

41    **"§ 88B-11. Qualifications for licensing teachers.**

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

44           (1)    Possession of a high school diploma or a high school graduation equivalency  
45                    certificate.

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

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

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

50           (2)    Submits proof of either practice of cosmetic art in a cosmetic art ~~shop,~~ shop  
51                    or mobile cosmetic art shop, or any Board-approved employment capacity in

- 1 the cosmetic arts industry, for a period equivalent to one year of full-time work  
2 immediately prior to application or successful completion of at least ~~800~~500  
3 hours of a teacher curriculum in an approved cosmetic art school.
- 4 (3) Passes an examination for teachers conducted by the Board.
- 5 (b1) The Board shall issue a license to practice as a hair design teacher to any individual  
6 who meets the requirements of subsection (a) of this section and who meets all of the following:
- 7 (1) Holds in good standing a cosmetologist or a hair designer license issued by  
8 the Board.
- 9 (2) Submits proof of either of the following:
- 10 a. Practice of hair design in a cosmetic art shop or mobile cosmetic art  
11 shop, or any Board-approved employment capacity in the cosmetic  
12 arts industry, for a period equivalent to one year of full-time work  
13 immediately prior to application.
- 14 b. Successful completion of at least 500 hours of a teacher curriculum in  
15 an approved cosmetic art school.
- 16 (3) Passes an examination for teachers conducted by the Board.
- 17 (c) The Board shall issue a license to practice as an esthetician teacher to any individual  
18 who meets the requirements of subsection (a) of this section and who meets all of the following:
- 19 (1) Holds in good standing a cosmetologist or an esthetician license issued by the  
20 Board.
- 21 (2) Submits proof of either practice as an esthetician in a cosmetic art ~~shop,~~shop  
22 or mobile cosmetic art shop, or any Board-approved employment capacity in  
23 the cosmetic arts industry, for a period equivalent to one year of full-time work  
24 immediately prior to application or successful completion of at least ~~650~~500  
25 hours of a teacher curriculum in an approved cosmetic art school.
- 26 (3) Passes an examination for teachers conducted by the Board.
- 27 (d) The Board shall issue a license to practice as a manicurist teacher to any individual  
28 who meets the requirements of subsection (a) of this section and who meets all of the following:
- 29 (1) Holds in good standing a cosmetologist or manicurist license issued by the  
30 Board.
- 31 (2) Submits proof of either practice as a manicurist in a cosmetic art ~~shop,~~shop  
32 or mobile cosmetic art shop, or any Board-approved employment capacity in  
33 the cosmetic arts industry, for a period equivalent to one year of full-time work  
34 immediately prior to application or successful completion of at least 320 hours  
35 of a teacher curriculum in an approved cosmetic art school.
- 36 (3) Passes an examination for teachers conducted by the Board.
- 37 (e) The Board shall issue a license to practice as a natural hair care teacher to any  
38 individual who meets the requirements of subsection (a) of this section and who meets all of the  
39 following:
- 40 (1) Holds in good standing a natural hair care license issued by the Board.
- 41 (2) Submits proof of either practice as a natural hair care specialist in a cosmetic  
42 art shop or any Board-approved employment capacity in the cosmetic art  
43 industry for a period equivalent to one year of full-time work immediately  
44 prior to application or successful completion of at least ~~320 hours~~200 hours  
45 of a teacher curriculum in an approved cosmetic art school.
- 46 (3) Passes an examination for teachers conducted by the Board.
- 47 **"§ 88B-12. Temporary employment permit; extensions; limits on practice.**
- 48 (a) The Board shall issue a temporary employment permit to an applicant for licensure  
49 as ~~an apprentice,~~ a cosmetologist, hair designer, esthetician, natural hair care specialist, or  
50 manicurist who meets all of the following:

- 1 (1) Has completed the required hours of a cosmetic art school curriculum in the  
2 area in which the applicant wishes to be licensed.
- 3 (2) Has applied to take the examination within three months of completing the  
4 required hours.
- 5 (3) Is qualified to take the examination.
- 6 (b) A temporary employment permit shall expire six months from the date of graduation  
7 from a cosmetic art school and shall not be renewed.
- 8 (c) The holder of a temporary employment permit may practice cosmetic art only under  
9 the supervision of a licensed cosmetologist, hair designer, manicurist, natural hair care specialist,  
10 or esthetician, as appropriate, and may not operate a cosmetic art shop.

11 **"§ 88B-13. Applicants licensed in other states.**

- 12 (a) The Board shall issue a license to an applicant licensed in another state as an  
13 apprentice, a cosmetologist, hair designer, esthetician, natural hair care specialist, hair braider,  
14 or manicurist ~~in another state~~ if the applicant shows:
- 15 (1) The applicant is an active practitioner in good standing.
- 16 (2) The applicant has practiced at least one of the three years immediately  
17 preceding the application for a license.
- 18 (3) There is no disciplinary proceeding or unresolved complaint pending against  
19 the applicant at the time a license is to be issued by this State.
- 20 (4) The licensure requirements in the state in which the applicant is licensed are  
21 substantially equivalent to those required by this State.
- 22 (b) Instead of meeting the requirements in subsection (a) of this section, any applicant  
23 who is licensed as a cosmetologist, hair designer, esthetician, natural hair care specialist, or  
24 manicurist in another state shall be admitted to practice in this State under the same reciprocity  
25 or comity provisions that the state in which the applicant is licensed grants to persons licensed in  
26 this State.
- 27 (c) The Board may establish standards for issuing a license to an applicant who is licensed  
28 as a teacher in another state. These standards shall include a requirement that the licensure  
29 requirements in the state in which the teacher is licensed shall be substantially equivalent to those  
30 required in this State and that the applicant shall be licensed by the Board to practice in the area  
31 in which the applicant is licensed to teach.

32 **"§ 88B-14. Licensing of cosmetic art shops, shops and mobile cosmetic art shops.**

- 33 (a) The Board shall issue a license to operate a cosmetic art shop or mobile cosmetic art  
34 shop to any applicant who submits a properly completed application, on a form approved by the  
35 Board, pays the required fee, and is determined, after inspection, to be in compliance with the  
36 provisions of this Chapter and the Board's rules.
- 37 (b) The applicant shall list all licensees who practice cosmetic art in the shop or mobile  
38 cosmetic art shop and shall identify each as an employee or a booth renter.
- 39 (c) A cosmetic art shop or mobile cosmetic art shop shall be allowed to operate for a  
40 period of 30 days while the Board inspects and determines the shop's or mobile cosmetic art  
41 shop's compliance with this Chapter and the Board's rules. If the Board is unable to complete the  
42 inspection within 30 days, the shop or mobile cosmetic art shop will be authorized to operate  
43 until such an inspection can be completed.
- 44 (d) A license to operate a cosmetic art shop or mobile cosmetic art shop shall not be  
45 transferable from one location to another or from one owner to another.

46 **"§ 88B-15. Practice outside cosmetic art shops.**

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

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

3 (c) A natural hair care specialist licensed under this Chapter may practice natural hair  
4 care, and a hair braider certified under this Chapter may practice hair braiding at fairs, street  
5 festivals, holiday festivals, agricultural festivals, farmers markets, balloon races, local  
6 fundraisers, and other similar events approved by the Board.

7 **"§ 88B-15A. Mobile cosmetic art shops.**

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

12 (b) The Board shall adopt rules for the operation, permitting, and inspection of mobile  
13 cosmetic art shops, including standards for facilities, personnel, and safety and sanitary  
14 requirements. All permitting and operating requirements provided by this Chapter or by rules  
15 adopted by the Board pursuant to this Chapter that apply to cosmetic art shops shall also apply  
16 to mobile cosmetic art shops, except to the extent that the requirements conflict with this section  
17 or with any rules adopted by the Board pursuant to this section.

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

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

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

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

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

35 ...

36 **"§ 88B-18. Examinations.**

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

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

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

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

47 **"§ 88B-19. Expired school credits.**

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

51 **"§ 88B-20. Fees required.**

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

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

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

7 (1a) Inspection of a newly established mobile cosmetic art  
 8 shop ..... \$ 25.00

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

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

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

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

13 (2a) Hair designer ..... \$ 10.00 per year

14 (3) Esthetician ..... \$ 10.00 per year

15 (4) Manicurist ..... \$ 10.00 per year

16 (4a) Natural hair care specialist ..... \$ 10.00 per year

17 (4b) Hair braider ..... \$5.00 per year

18 (5) Teacher ..... \$ 10.00 every 2 years

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

20 (6a) Mobile cosmetic art shop ..... \$ 50.00 per year

21 (7) Cosmetic art school ..... \$ 50.00 per year

22 (8) Duplicate license ..... \$ 1.00.

23 (d) The Board may require payment of late fees and reinstatement fees as follows:

24 (1) ~~Apprentice, cosmetologist,~~ Cosmetologist, hair designer, esthetician,  
 25 manicurist, hair braider,  
 26 natural hair care specialist, and teacher late renewal ..... \$ 10.00

27 (2) Cosmetic art schools and shops and mobile cosmetic art  
 28 shops late renewal ..... \$ 10.00

29 (3) Reinstatement – cosmetic art schools and shops and  
 30 mobile cosmetic art shops ..... \$ 25.00.

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

32 **"§ 88B-21. Renewals; expired licenses; inactive status.**

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

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

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

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

4 (e) Prior to renewal of a ~~license~~, license or certification, a teacher, cosmetologist, hair  
5 designer, esthetician, natural hair care specialist, hair braider, or manicurist shall annually  
6 complete ~~eight~~ four hours of Board-approved continuing education for each year of the licensing  
7 cycle. A cosmetologist may complete up to ~~24 hours~~ 12 hours of required continuing education  
8 at any time within the cosmetologist's three-year licensing cycle. Licensees shall submit written  
9 documentation to the Board showing that they have satisfied the requirements of this subsection.  
10 A licensee who is in active practice as a cosmetologist, hair designer, esthetician, natural hair  
11 care specialist, or manicurist, has practiced for at least 10 consecutive years in that profession,  
12 and is 60 years of age or older does not have to meet the continuing education requirements of  
13 this subsection. A licensee who is in active practice as a ~~cosmetologist~~ cosmetologist, hair  
14 designer, esthetician, natural hair care specialist, hair braider, or manicurist and has at least 20  
15 consecutive years of experience ~~as a cosmetologist~~, in that profession, does not have to meet the  
16 continuing education requirements of this subsection, but shall report any continuing education  
17 classes completed to the Board, whether the continuing education classes are Board-approved or  
18 not. Promotion of products and systems shall be allowed at continuing education given in-house  
19 or at trade shows. Continuing education classes may also be offered in secondary languages as  
20 needed. No member of the Board may offer continuing education courses as required by this  
21 section.

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

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

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

40 **"§ 88B-22. Licenses and certifications required; criminal penalty.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 **"§ 88B-23. Licenses and certifications to be posted.**

11 (a) Every ~~apprentice~~, cosmetologist, hair designer, esthetician, manicurist, natural hair  
12 care specialist, hair braider, and teacher licensed or certified under this Chapter shall display the  
13 certificate of license or certification issued by the Board within the shop in which the person  
14 works.

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

18 **"§ 88B-24. Revocation of licenses and other disciplinary measures.**

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

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

38 **"§ 88B-25. Exemptions.**

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

- 41 (1) Undertakers and funeral establishments licensed under G.S. 90-210.25.
- 42 (2) Persons authorized to practice medicine or surgery under Chapter 90 of the  
43 General Statutes.
- 44 (3) Nurses licensed under Chapter 90 of the General Statutes.
- 45 (4) Commissioned medical or surgical officers of the United States Army, Air  
46 Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Space Force, or Coast Guard.
- 47 (5) A person employed in a cosmetic art shop or mobile cosmetic art shop whose  
48 duties are expressly confined to the shampooing or blow drying of hair,  
49 provided that the person shall comply with rules adopted by the Board relating  
50 to sanitary management of cosmetic art ~~shops~~ shops and mobile cosmetic art  
51 shops.

1 **"§ 88B-26. Rules to be posted.**

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

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

9 **"§ 88B-27. Inspections.**

10 Any inspector or other authorized representative of the Board may enter any cosmetic art  
11 ~~shop or shop,~~ mobile cosmetic art shop, or cosmetic art school to inspect it for compliance with  
12 this Chapter and the Board's rules. All persons practicing cosmetic art in a ~~shop~~ shop, mobile  
13 cosmetic art shop, or cosmetic art school shall, upon request, present satisfactory proof of  
14 identification. Satisfactory proof shall be in the form of a photographic driver's license or  
15 photographic identification card issued by any state, federal, or other government entity. The  
16 Board may require a cosmetic art ~~shop or shop,~~ mobile cosmetic art shop, or cosmetic art school  
17 to be inspected as a condition for license renewal.

18 ...."

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

20 **"§ 86B-32. Persons exempt from the provisions of this Article.**

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

- 23 (1) Persons authorized under the laws of the State to practice medicine and  
24 surgery, and those working under their supervision.
- 25 (2) Commissioned medical or surgical officers of the United States Army or other  
26 components of the Armed Forces of the United States, and those working  
27 under their supervision.
- 28 (3) Registered nurses and licensed practical nurses and those working under their  
29 supervision.
- 30 (4) Licensed embalmers and funeral directors and those working under their  
31 supervision.
- 32 (5) Persons who are working in licensed cosmetic shops or ~~beauty~~ cosmetic art  
33 schools and are licensed or certified by the State Board of Cosmetic Art  
34 Examiners pursuant to Chapter 88B of the General Statutes.
- 35 (6) Persons who are working in barbershops and are licensed or certified by the  
36 State Board of Cosmetic Art Examiners pursuant to Chapter 88B of the  
37 General Statutes, provided that those persons shall comply with G.S. 86B-31.
- 38 (7) Inmates under the jurisdiction of the North Carolina Department of Adult  
39 Correction.
- 40 (8) Persons who are employed by barbershops and whose duties are expressly  
41 confined to the shampooing or blow drying of hair, provided that the person  
42 shall comply with G.S. 86B-31."

43 **SECTION 3.(a)** The following provisions shall govern the transition from apprentice  
44 licenses previously required for practice under Chapter 88B of the General Statutes to  
45 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 December 31,  
48 2026, shall automatically be deemed to hold a cosmetologist license without  
49 further examination, application, fees, or additional qualification  
50 requirements.

- 1           (2) Pending applications. – Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any
- 2           application for an apprentice license submitted to the Board prior to December
- 3           31, 2026, and still pending on that date shall be granted as a cosmetologist
- 4           license if the applicant meets all of the following requirements:
- 5           a. Successful completion of at least 1,200 hours of a cosmetology
- 6           curriculum in an approved cosmetic art school.
- 7           b. Passage of an examination conducted by the Board.
- 8           c. Payment of the fees required by G.S. 88B-20.
- 9           (3) Renewal of licenses. – Upon expiration of an apprentice license, the Board
- 10          shall permit individuals to renew their credential as a cosmetologist license
- 11          without resubmission or additional qualifications.

12           **SECTION 3.(b)** The North Carolina Board of Cosmetic Art Examiners shall adopt

13 rules to implement the provisions of this act. The Board shall prominently post on its publicly

14 available website information about the elimination of the apprentice license and transition to

15 cosmetologist licensure.

16           **SECTION 3.(c)** The North Carolina Board of Barber and Electrolysis Examiners

17 may adopt rules to implement Section 2 of this act.

18           **SECTION 4.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act become effective December 31, 2026. The

19 remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.