

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Committee Substitute

for

House Bill 4667

By Delegate Crouse

[Originating in the Subcommittee on Government
Administration; Reported on February 13, 2026]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §30-27-3 and §30-27-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as
2 amended; and to amend said code by adding a new section, designated §30-27-8c,
3 relating to professions regulated by the Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists; defining
4 terms; providing for a salon training program; and exempting safe services from licensure.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 27. BOARD OF BARBERS AND COSMETOLOGISTS.

§30-27-3. Definitions.

1 As used in this article, the following words and terms have the following meanings, unless
2 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

3 ~~(a)~~ "Aesthetics" or "esthetics" means any one or any combination of the following acts
4 when done on the human body for compensation and not for the treatment of disease:

5 (1) Administering cosmetic treatments to enhance or improve the appearance of the skin,
6 including cleansing, toning, performing effleurage or other related movements, stimulating,
7 exfoliating, or performing any other similar procedure on the skin of the human body or scalp;

8 (2) Applying, by hand or with a mechanical or electrical apparatus, any cosmetics,
9 makeups, oils, powders, clays, antiseptics, tonics, lotions, creams, or chemical preparations
10 necessary for the practice of aesthetics to another person's face, neck, back, shoulders, hands,
11 elbows and feet up to and including the knee;

12 (3) The rubbing, cleansing, exercising, beautifying, or grooming of another person's face,
13 neck, back, shoulders, hands, elbows, and feet, up to and including the knee;

14 (4) The waxing and tweezing of hair on another person's body;

15 (5) The wrapping of another person's body in a body wrap;

16 (6) Applying artificial eyelashes and eyebrows; and

17 (7) The lightening of hair on the body except the scalp.

18 ~~(b)~~ "Aesthetician" or "esthetician" means a person licensed under the provisions of this
19 article who engages in the practice of aesthetics and has completed 600 clock hours of training.

20 ~~(c)~~ "Applicant" means a person making application for a professional license, license,
21 certificate, registration, permit, or renewal under the provisions of this article.

22 ~~(d)~~ "Barber" means a person licensed under the provisions of this article who engages in
23 the practice of barbering and has completed a 1,200 clock-hour barber training program without
24 chemical services, or a 1,500 clock-hour barber training program with chemical services, or has
25 successfully completed the barber apprenticeship program.

26 ~~(e)~~ "Barbering" means any one or any combination of the following acts when done on the
27 head and neck for compensation and not for the treatment of disease:

28 (1) Shaving, shaping, and trimming the beard, or both;

29 (2) Cutting, singeing, arranging, dressing, tinting, bleaching, or applying lotions or tonics
30 on human hair, or a wig or hairpiece; and

31 (3) Applications, treatments, or rubs of the scalp, face, or neck with oils, creams, lotions,
32 cosmetics, antiseptics, powders, or other preparations in connection with the shaving, cutting, or
33 trimming of the hair or beard.

34 ~~(f)~~ "Barber crossover" is a person who has completed 1,200 or 1,500 clock hours of
35 training, is licensed as a barber, and completed additional hours of training in nails, aesthetics,
36 and/or chemical services, to the total amount of 2,100 hours, to perform cosmetology.

37 ~~(g)~~ "Barber permanent waving" means the following acts performed on the head and neck
38 for compensation and not for the treatment of disease:

39 (1) The bleaching or tinting of hair; and

40 (2) The permanent waving of hair.

41 ~~(h)~~ "Barber permanent wavist" means a person who has completed 2,000 clock hours of
42 training and was licensed to perform barbering and barber permanent waving enrolled by August
43 28, 2012.

44 "Blow-dry styling" means the practice of shampooing, conditioning, drying, arranging,
45 curling, straightening or styling hair using only mechanical devices, hair sprays and topical agents,

46 such as balms, oils and serums, including the use and styling of hair extensions, hair pieces and
47 wigs. "Blow-dry styling" excludes cutting hair or the application of dyes, bleach, reactive
48 chemicals, keratin treatments or other preparations to color or alter the structure of human hair,
49 and is distinct from aesthetics, barbering, barber permanent waving, cosmetology, hair styling, and
50 nail care.

51 (i) "Board" means the West Virginia Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists.

52 (j) "Certificate" means an instructor certificate to teach in a school under the provisions of
53 this article or a document issued by the board for certification obtained pursuant to §30-27-8b of
54 this code.

55 (k) "Certificate holder" means a person certified as an instructor to teach in a school under
56 the provisions of this article, or who has obtained a certification pursuant to §30-27-8b of this code.

57 (l) "Cosmetologist" means a person licensed under the provisions of this article who
58 engages in the practice of cosmetology and who has completed 1,800 clock hours of training.

59 (m) "Cosmetology" means any one or any combination of the following acts when done on
60 the human body for compensation and not for the treatment of disease:

61 (1) Cutting, styling, shaping, arranging, braiding, weaving, dressing, adding extensions,
62 curling, waving, permanent waving, relaxing, straightening, cleansing, singeing, bleaching, tinting,
63 coloring, waxing, tweezing, or similarly, work on human hair, or a wig or hairpiece, by any means,
64 including hands, mechanical, or electrical devices or appliances;

65 (2) Nail care;

66 (3) Applying by hand or with a mechanical or electrical device or appliance, any cosmetics,
67 makeups, oils, powders, clays, antiseptics, tonics, lotions, creams or chemical preparations
68 necessary for the practice of aesthetics to another person's face, neck, shoulders, hands, elbows,
69 and feet, up to and including the knee;

70 (4) The rubbing, cleansing, exercising, beautifying, or grooming of another person's face,
71 neck, shoulders, hands, elbows, and feet, up to and including the knee;

72 (5) The wrapping of another person's body in a body wrap; and

73 (6) Performing aesthetics.

74 (n) "Cosmetology crossover" is a person who has completed 1,800 clock hours of training,
75 is licensed as a cosmetologist, and completes an additional 300 hours of training in clipper cuts
76 and face shaving to perform barbering, for a total of 2,100 hours.

77 "Direct supervision" means the actual physical presence of a practitioner licensed or
78 certified pursuant to this article on the premises where a supervisee is rendering services, who is
79 readily and quickly available to the supervisee, and who inspects the supervisee's work at least
80 once while services are being rendered.

81 (o) "General supervision" means:

82 (1) For schools, a master or certified instructor is on the premises and is quickly and easily
83 available; or

84 (2) For salons, a professional licensee is on the premises and is quickly and easily
85 available.

86 "Hair braiding" means the service of twisting, locking, wrapping, weaving, cornrowing,
87 extending, or braiding hair by hand or with mechanical devices, including the use of natural or
88 synthetic hair extensions, natural or synthetic hair and fibers, decorative beads or other hair
89 accessories, the minor trimming of natural hair or hair extensions incidental to twisting, locking,
90 wrapping, weaving, cornrowing, extending, or braiding hair, and the making and lacing of wigs
91 from natural hair, natural fibers, synthetic fibers and hair extensions, as well as the use of topical
92 agents such as conditioners, gels, moisturizers, oils, pomades and shampoos. "Natural hair
93 braiding" excludes the application of dyes, reactive chemicals or other preparations to alter the
94 color of the hair or to straighten, curl or alter the structure of the hair or the use of chemical hair
95 joining agents such as synthetic tape, keratin bonds or fusion bonds, and is distinct from
96 aesthetics, barbering, barber permanent waving, cosmetology, hair styling, and nail care.

97 (p) "Hair styling" means any one or any combination of the following acts when done on the

98 head and neck for compensation and not for the treatment of disease:

99 Cutting, styling, shaping, arranging, braiding, weaving, dressing, adding extensions,
100 curling, facial hair trimming, scalp treatments, waving, permanent waving, relaxing, straightening,
101 singeing, bleaching, tinting, coloring, or similar, work on human hair, or a wig or hairpiece, by any
102 means, including hands, mechanical or electrical devices, or appliances.

103 ~~(q)~~ "Hair stylist" means a person licensed under the provisions of this article who engages
104 in the practice of hair styling and who has completed 1,000 clock hours of training, effective July 1,
105 2016, or 1,000 clock hours of training in the salon training program.

106 ~~(r)~~ "License" means a professional license, a salon license, or a school license.

107 ~~(s)~~ "Licensed school" means a facility which has been approved by the West Virginia
108 Council for Community and Technical College Education (CCTCE), Department of Education in
109 conjunction with CCTCE, or Department of Education in conjunction with the Department of
110 Corrections pursuant to §18B-2B-9 of this code to educate persons to be licensed or issued
111 certain permits under the provisions of this article.

112 ~~(t)~~ "Licensee" means a person, corporation, or firm holding a license issued under the
113 provisions of this article.

114 "Makeup application" means the application of a cosmetic to enhance the appearance of
115 the face or skin including powder, foundation, rouge, eyeshadow, eyeliner, mascara and lipstick,
116 including the application of makeup applied using an airbrush. "Makeup application" excludes the
117 application of permanent makeup or tattooing, and is distinct from aesthetics, barbering, barber
118 permanent waving, cosmetology, hair styling, and nail care.

119 ~~(u)~~ "Mobile shop" means any self-contained, self-supporting, enclosed unit which is
120 constructed in either a motorized vehicle or a towable trailer as a portable facility for providing any
121 of the professional services set forth in this article to the public.

122 ~~(v)~~ "Nail care" means any one or any combination of the following acts when done on the
123 human body for compensation and not for the treatment of disease:

124 (1) The cleansing, dressing, or polishing of nails of a person;

125 (2) Performing artificial nail service; and

126 (3) The cosmetic treatment of the feet up to the knee and the hands up to the elbow.

127 ~~(w)~~ "Nail technician" or "manicurist" means a person licensed under the provisions of this
128 article who engages in the practice of nail care and has completed 400 clock hours of training.

129 ~~(x)~~ "Permit" means a work permit.

130 ~~(y)~~ "Permitee" means a person holding a work permit.

131 ~~(z)~~ "Professional license" means a license to practice as an aesthetician, barber, barber
132 crossover, barber permanent waviest, cosmetologist, cosmetologist crossover, hairstylist, or nail
133 technician.

134 ~~(aa)~~ "Registration" means a registration issued by the board to a person who rents or
135 leases a booth or chair from a licensed salon owner and operator, or both, or a registration issued
136 by the board to a person who is a student in a school.

137 ~~(bb)~~ "Registrant" means a person who holds a registration under the provisions of this
138 article.

139 ~~(cc)~~ "Salon" means a shop or other facility where a person practices under a professional
140 license.

141 ~~(dd)~~ "Salon license" means a license to own and operate a salon.

142 ~~(ee)~~ "Student registration" means a registration issued by the board to a student to study at
143 a school licensed under the provisions of this article.

144 "Threading" means a method of removing hair from the eyebrows, upper lip or other body
145 parts by using a cotton thread to pull hair from follicles, including the use of over-the-counter
146 astringents, gels, powders, tweezers and scissors incidental to threading. Threading is distinct
147 from aesthetics, barbering, barber permanent waving, cosmetology, hair styling, and nail care.

148 ~~(ff)~~ "Waxing specialist" means a person certified under the provisions of this article who
149 engages in the practice of waxing and tweezing of hair on another person's body.

150 (gg) Hair braiding, threading, blow-dry styling, makeup application, and any other item not
151 spelled out are not regulated by the West Virginia Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists.

§30-27-8. Professional license requirements.

1 An applicant for a professional license to practice as an aesthetician, barber, barber
2 crossover, cosmetologist, hair stylist, cosmetologist crossover or nail technician shall present
3 satisfactory evidence that he or she:

4 Is at least 18 years of age;

5 ~~Is of good moral character~~ Does not have a criminal conviction that directly relates to the
6 applicant's ability to safely practice as an aesthetician, barber, barber crossover, cosmetologist,
7 hair stylist, cosmetologist crossover or nail technician, as determined by the West Virginia Board
8 of Barbers and Cosmetologists;

9 Has a high school diploma, a GED, or has passed the "ability to benefit test" approved by
10 the United States Department of Education;

11 Has graduated from a licensed school which has been approved by the West Virginia
12 Council for Community and Technical Education (CCTCE), Department of Education in
13 conjunction with CCTCE or Department of Education with the Department of Corrections, or has
14 completed education requirements in another state and meets the licensure provisions of the
15 board, or, for hair styling, has completed 1,000 hours of supervised practice under a salon training
16 program established pursuant to §30-27-8c of this code;

17 Has passed an examination that tests the applicant's knowledge of subjects specified by
18 the board: *Provided*, That the board may recognize a certificate or similar license in lieu of the
19 examination or part of the examination that the board requires: *Provided, however*, That any
20 examination meets national standards;

21 Has paid the applicable fee;

22 Presents a certificate of health from a licensed physician;

23 Is a citizen of the United States or is eligible for employment in the United States; and

24 Has fulfilled any other requirement specified by the Board.

25 A license to practice issued by the board prior to July 1, 2016, shall for all purposes be
26 considered a professional license issued under this article: *Provided*, That a person holding a
27 license issued prior to July 1, 2016, must renew the license pursuant to the provisions of this
28 article.

29 A person, who by education and experience qualifies to be a barber and a cosmetologist or
30 a barber crossover or cosmetologist crossover, may elect at any time to practice solely as a barber
31 and, after notice and application to the board, may be licensed as a barber without other
32 designation.

§30-27-8c. Salon training program.

1 A salon training program is hereby created. The board shall allow salons to register to
2 participate in the program. A salon licensed pursuant to §30-27-17 of this code, including a mobile
3 shop operating pursuant to §30-27-17a of this code, may participate in the program by registering
4 with the board.

5 A salon that registers with the board may employ persons, without regard to the person's
6 licensure status, to provide the services of shampooing, cutting, coloring, and styling hair under
7 the direct supervision of a licensee who regularly provides the services. A person providing
8 services without a license shall first complete four hours of education related to the barbering and
9 cosmetology laws in this article and rules and sanitation, as approved by the board, before offering
10 services permitted under the program. The board shall ensure low-cost and virtual options for
11 training are available. The salon and licensee are responsible for ensuring the education, training,
12 skills, and competence of persons who provide services in the salon.

13 A salon participating in the salon training program shall comply with all facility and
14 minimum equipment requirements, safety and infection control provisions, inspection
15 requirements, management requirements, and salon licensing renewal requirements. The board
16 may inspect a participating salon as the board deems necessary to ensure compliance with these

17 requirements.

18 The salon shall disclose in writing prior to the consumer's receipt of services from an
19 unlicensed provider that the salon is participating in the program and that the provider is not
20 licensed. The disclosure shall be clearly legible and state: "This licensed salon is registered to
21 participate in a salon training program. This salon employs unlicensed providers who work under
22 the direct supervision of licensed providers. The services you are receiving are from an unlicensed
23 provider participating in this program."

24 In addition to any other remedy provided by law, in any civil action where the fault of an
25 unlicensed employee, or the fault of an unlicensed employee's supervisor or employer, is alleged
26 to be the direct and proximate cause of an injury which occurred in a salon participating in the
27 salon training program, a prevailing plaintiff may recover reasonable attorney's fees and
28 expenses.

29 In addition to any other disciplinary powers established pursuant to this article, the board
30 may, when it has probable cause to believe that human health is endangered, order a salon
31 participating in the program to immediately cease participation in the program. The board may
32 conduct an investigation pursuant to §30-27-20 of this code, and upon finding probable cause
33 shall conduct a hearing pursuant to §30-27-21 of this code, to determine whether the problem has
34 been corrected, whether to deny, refuse to renew, suspend, revoke, or reinstate the salon's
35 participation in the program, and whether to deny, refuse to renew, suspend, revoke, or reinstate
36 the salon's license.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to clarify that hair braiding and threading are not regulated by the West Virginia Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists, it further provides that blow-dry styling and makeup application are not regulated, and creates a salon training program allowing licensed salons to employ trainees to cut and color hair and, after 1,000 hours, sit for the hair styling exam.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.

