

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 486

By Senator Thorne

[Introduced January 19, 2026; referred
to the Committee on Government Organization]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §30-27-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to
2 the West Virginia Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists; and adding the definition of
3 "master aesthetician" to persons licensed under this article.

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,

certificate, registration, permit, or renewal under the provisions of this article.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1) The bleaching or tinting of hair; and

(2) The permanent waving of hair.

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

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

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

47 this code.

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

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

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

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

58 (2) Nail care;

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

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

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

66 (6) Performing aesthetics.

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

70 (o) "General supervision" means:

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

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

(p) "Hair styling" means any one or any combination of the following acts when done on the head and neck for compensation and not for the treatment of disease:

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

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

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

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

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

(u) "Master aesthetician" means a person licensed under the provisions of this article who engages in the practice of aesthetics and has completed a minimum of 900 clock hours of training and who is authorized to practice using laser technology, intense pulsed light ("IPL") devices, microneedling, and radiofrequency treatments.

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

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

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

(2) Performing artificial nail service; and

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

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

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

~~(y)~~ (z) "Permittee" means a person holding a work permit.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

~~(gg)~~ (hh) Hair braiding, threading, and any other item not spelled out are not regulated by the West Virginia Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to add the definition of "Master aesthetician" who is authorized to practice using laser technology, intense pulsed light ("IPL") devices, microneedling, and radiofrequency treatments.

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