



## ***Let Hair Braiders Practice Their Craft HB5783 (Burns)***

HB 5783 would create **reasonable licensing requirements** for **professional hair braiders**. This bill would cover only those braiders who set themselves up in commercial braiding businesses, not those who practice braiding for friends or family without charge.

HB 5783 would free professional hair braiders from **excessive and irrelevant requirements**.

- Current laws treat hair braiders as cosmetologists, and require them to take **1,500 hours** of training to learn techniques like straightening, perms, and dyeing that are **irrelevant to their chemical-free practice**.
- Such training provides **little to no instruction in “natural” hairstyling techniques** such as braiding, corn-rowing, locking, twisting and weaving.
- Cosmetology training **costs as much as \$10,000**—but with little to do with hair braiding.

HB 5783 would **protect public health and safety** by still requiring professional hair braiders to complete **300 hours** of training: 100 hours on health, safety, hygiene, braiding practices, and business practices, and 200 hours of practical work. This more relevant training would cost only several hundred dollars.

HB 5783 would **protect currently practicing hair braiders** by letting them get temporary licenses while they complete 65 hours of instruction.

HB 5783 would enable professional hair braiders to **set up legitimate businesses that create jobs and help rebuild our economy**, rather than risk prosecution for not complying with excessive regulations.

A previous hair braiding bill passed the Illinois House unanimously in 2003. HB 5783 improves on that bill by incorporating **input from the Illinois Association of Cosmetology Schools (IACS)**, which has endorsed the bill.

**Ten other states treat hair braiders differently from cosmetologists**, and require either specific training and licensing or no license at all. HB 5783 would still require specialized training and licensing to protect public health, but not force braiders to go through expensive, irrelevant cosmetology training.

***HB 5783 means sensible regulations and more jobs--***

***Please vote “Yes” on HB 5783***

*For more information, please call  
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