

Senate Committee Moves to Deregulate Natural Hair Braiding

Written by Shelia Stubbs Press

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Bill specifies that a person does not need to obtain a barbering or cosmetology license in order to perform natural hair braiding.

Madison, WI – On Wednesday, the Senate companion of Assembly Bill 121, Senate Bill 216, relating to the deregulation of natural hair braiding, passed through the Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing, and Forestry. This bill specifies that a person does not need to obtain a barbering or cosmetology license in order to perform natural hair braiding. On this legislation's progress, Representative Stubbs (D-77) issued the following statement:



“As your representative, I am committed to passing real reforms, and making real change. Deregulating natural hair braiding ensures that burdensome regulation will not interfere with generational cultural practices. Black hair is a vital part of Black culture, and this is legislation will ensure that natural hair braiders are not excluded from their art.”

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“In addition, this bill will open up doors for aspiring entrepreneurs, especially entrepreneurs of color and female entrepreneurs. Assembly Bill 121 removes restrictions that limit the success of women of color, and it will improve the economic lives of those who practice the art of natural hair braiding. Their success will not only benefit communities of color, but will benefit the entire state of Wisconsin.”

“I want to thank members of the Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing, and Forestry for supporting this bill, and for moving it one step closer to becoming law in Wisconsin. Thirty other states have already removed this burdensome requirement, and it is time that Wisconsin follows suit.”

“This legislation will foster success within the natural hair braiding community, and I am proud to have authored this legislation with bipartisan support. Together we are moving Wisconsin forward. I am excited to see this legislation pass on the Senate floor, and be brought to the Governor's desk.”