

By: Senator(s) Canon

To: Public Health and
Welfare

SENATE BILL NO. 2356

1 AN ACT RELATING TO THE PRACTICE OF COSMETOLOGY; TO AMEND
2 SECTIONS 73-7-2, 73-7-9, 73-7-51, 73-7-53, 73-7-55, 73-7-57 AND
3 73-7-59, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE PERSONS PRACTICING
4 HAIR BRAIDING OR WEAVING OR OPERATING A BRAIDING OR WEAVING SALON
5 TO BE LICENSED BY THE STATE BOARD OF COSMETOLOGY, AND TO PRESCRIBE
6 QUALIFICATIONS AND FEES THEREFOR; TO AMEND SECTION 73-7-3,
7 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO DELETE THE SPECIFIC AUTHORITY OF THE
8 STATE BOARD OF COSMETOLOGY TO EMPLOY AND FIX THE SALARY OF AN
9 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY; TO AMEND SECTION 73-7-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
10 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD TO ADOPT REGULATIONS TO ENSURE THAT
11 ALL FINGERNAIL SERVICE PRODUCTS DO NOT CONTAIN METHYL METHACRYLATE
12 (MMA); TO AMEND SECTION 73-7-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
13 AUTHORIZE THE BOARD TO ISSUE INACTIVE COSMETOLOGY LICENSES AND TO
14 PRESCRIBE REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLYING FOR ACTIVE LICENSE STATUS; TO
15 AMEND SECTION 73-7-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CLARIFY THE
16 COLLEGE COURSE REQUIREMENTS OF COSMETOLOGY INSTRUCTORS; TO AMEND
17 SECTION 73-7-21, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE 350 HOURS OF
18 PRACTICE AND TRAINING FOR A MANICURIST'S LICENSE AND TO DELETE THE
19 REPEALER ON THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE BOARD OF COSMETOLOGY TO
20 ISSUE REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE USE OF POWER DRILLS IN MANICURING
21 PROCEDURES; TO AMEND SECTIONS 73-7-19 AND 73-7-29, MISSISSIPPI
22 CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE FOR BIENNIAL COSMETOLOGY LICENSE RENEWAL
23 AND FEES AFTER JUNE 30, 2000, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD TO MAKE
24 CERTAIN REFUNDS OF FEES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

26 SECTION 1. Section 73-7-2, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
27 amended as follows:

28 73-7-2. As used in this chapter, the following terms shall
29 have the meanings ascribed herein unless the context otherwise
30 requires:

31 (a) "Board" means the State Board of Cosmetology.

32 (b) "Cosmetology" means any one (1) or a combination of
33 the following practices if they are performed on a person's head,
34 face, neck, shoulder, arms, hands, legs or feet for cosmetic
35 purposes:

36 (i) Cutting, clipping or trimming hair.

37 (ii) Styling, arranging, dressing, curling,

38 waving, permanent waving, straightening, cleansing, bleaching,
39 tinting, coloring or similarly treating hair.

40 (iii) Cleansing, stimulating, manipulating,
41 beautifying or applying oils, antiseptics, clays, lotions or other
42 preparations, either by hand or by mechanical or electrical
43 apparatus.

44 (iv) Arching eyebrows or tinting eyebrows and
45 eyelashes.

46 (v) Removing superfluous hair by the use of
47 depilatories.

48 (vi) Manicuring and pedicuring.

49 (c) "Cosmetologist" means a person who for
50 compensation, whether direct or indirect, engages in the practice
51 of cosmetology.

52 (d) "Esthetics" means any one (1) or a combination of
53 the following practices:

54 (i) Massaging the face or neck of a person.

55 (ii) Trimming eyebrows.

56 (iii) Tinting eyelashes or eyebrows.

57 (iv) Waxing, stimulating, cleaning or beautifying
58 the face, neck, arms or legs of a person by any method with the
59 aid of the hands or any mechanical or electrical apparatus, or by
60 the use of a cosmetic preparation.

61 The term "esthetics" shall not include the diagnosis,
62 treatment or therapy of any dermatological condition.

63 (e) "Esthetician" means any person who, for
64 compensation, either direct or indirect, engages in the practice
65 of esthetics.

66 (f) "Instructor" means a person licensed to teach
67 cosmetology, or manicuring and pedicuring, or esthetics, or
68 wigology, or all of those, pursuant to this chapter, and shall
69 include those persons engaged in the instruction of student
70 instructors.

(g) "Manicuring and pedicuring" means any one (1) or a combination of the following practices:

(i) Cutting, trimming, polishing, coloring, tinting, cleansing or otherwise treating a person's nails.

(ii) Applying artificial nails.

(iii) Massaging or cleaning a person's hands, arms, legs or feet.

(h) "Manicurist" means a person who for compensation, either direct or indirect, engages in the practice of manicuring and pedicuring.

(i) "Master cosmetologist" means a person holding a cosmetology license who has completed the minimum course of continuing education prescribed by Section 73-7-14.

(j) "Salon" means an establishment operated for the purpose of engaging in the practice of cosmetology, or manicuring and pedicuring, or esthetics, or wigology, or all of those.

(k) "School" means an establishment, public or private, operated for the purpose of teaching cosmetology, or manicuring and pedicuring, or esthetics, or wigology, or all of those.

(l) "Wigology" means a service to a wig or hairpiece in any one (1) or combination of the following:

(i) Arranging, dressing, waving or curling.

(ii) Cleaning.

(iii) Bleaching or coloring.

(iv) Cutting and shaping.

(m) "Wig specialist" means a person who, for compensation, either direct or indirect, engages in the practice of wigology.

(n) "Braiding or weaving" means a service in any one or combination of the following:

(i) Any technique which involves sewing or gluing wefts of hair in tracks of the person's own hair;

(ii) Any technique in which pieces or strands of

hair are sewn, braided or thermally fused to a persons's own hair;

(iii) Any technique which results in tension on a person's own hair including braiding, weaving, wrapping, locking and extending of the hair; or

(iv) Cleansing of the scalp and hair in preparation for a technique as described in (i), (ii) or (iii) above.

(o) "Braiding or weaving specialist" means a person who for compensation, either direct or indirect, engages in the practice of braiding or weaving.

SECTION 2. Section 73-7-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

73-7-3. * * * The board shall also be authorized to employ such clerical and stenographic assistance, bookkeepers, investigators and other agents as they may deem necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter, and to fix their tenure of employment and compensation therefor. The members of the board shall file a bond with the Secretary of State in the sum of not less than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) payable to the State of Mississippi for the faithful performance of their duties. The bond shall be made by a surety company authorized to do business in this state, the premium of the bond to be paid out of any money in the board's special fund in the State Treasury.

The office of the board shall be located in the greater metropolitan area of the City of Jackson, Mississippi, and in the event office space cannot be obtained in any state-owned building, the board is authorized to rent suitable office space and to pay therefor out of funds in the board's special fund. The board shall employ inspectors as needed, not to exceed seven (7), who shall be full-time employees and whose salaries and duties shall be fixed by the board.

The salaries of all paid employees of the board shall be paid out of the funds in the board's special fund. The inspectors

shall, in addition to their salaries, be reimbursed for such expenses as are allowed other state employees under the provisions of Section 25-3-41. In addition to the paying of office rent, the board is authorized to purchase necessary office furniture and equipment, stationery, books, certificates and any other equipment necessary for the proper administration of this chapter.

SECTION 3. Section 73-7-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

73-7-7. The board shall have authority to make reasonable rules and regulations for the administration of the provisions of this chapter. The board shall set up a curriculum for operation of schools of cosmetology and the other professions it is charged to regulate in this state. The board shall receive and consider for adoption recommendations for rules and regulations, school curriculum, and related matters from the Mississippi Cosmetology Council, whose membership shall consist of, in addition to the board members, five (5) elected delegates from the Mississippi Hairdressers and Cosmetologists Association, five (5) elected delegates from the Mississippi Cosmetology School Association, five (5) elected delegates from the Mississippi Independent Beauticians Association, and five (5) elected delegates from the School Owners and Teachers Association. The board may revoke the license of any cosmetologist, esthetician, manicurist, wig specialist, braiding or weaving specialist, instructor, school of cosmetology, or salon, or may refuse to issue a license to any cosmetologist, esthetician, manicurist, wig specialist, braiding or weaving specialist, instructor, school of cosmetology, or salon that fails or refuses to comply with the provisions of this chapter and the rules and regulations of the board in carrying out the provisions of this chapter.

The board shall have authority to prescribe reasonable rules and regulations governing sanitation of schools of cosmetology and beauty salons for the guidance of persons licensed under this

chapter in the operation of schools of cosmetology, or a beauty salon, and in the practice of cosmetology, esthetics, manicuring and pedicuring, * * * wigology and braiding/weaving. However, any and all rules and regulations relating to sanitation shall, before adoption by the board, have the written approval of the State Board of Health. When the board has reason to believe that any of the provisions of this chapter or of the rules and regulations of the board have been violated, either upon receipt of a written complaint alleging such violations or upon the board's own initiative, the board, or any of its authorized agents, shall investigate same and shall have authority to enter upon the premises of a school of cosmetology or salon at any time during the regular business hours of that school or salon to conduct the investigation. Such investigation may include, but not be limited to, conducting oral interviews with the complaining party, school or salon owner(s) and/or students of the school, and reviewing records of the school or salon pertinent to the complaint and related to an area subject to the authority of the board. Such investigation shall not include written interviews or surveys of school employees or students, and the privacy of patrons shall be respected by any person making such investigation.

On or before July 1, 2000, the board shall adopt regulations to ensure that all fingernail service products used by licensed cosmetologists, manicurists and other licensees do not contain methyl methacrylate (MMA) as a monomer agent for cosmetic nail applications.

If the board finds that a violation of the provisions of this chapter or the rules and regulations of the board has occurred, it may cause a hearing to be held as set forth in Section 73-7-27.

SECTION 4. Section 73-7-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

73-7-9. No person required by this chapter to have a license shall conduct a beauty salon or school of cosmetology, or practice

203 cosmetology, esthetics, manicuring and pedicuring, * * * wigology,
204 braiding or weaving, or practice as an instructor, unless such
205 person has received a license or temporary permit therefor from
206 the board. Students determined to have violated any of these
207 rules or regulations prior to being licensed by the board shall be
208 subject to the same discipline by the board as licensees. They
209 may be disciplined and fined accordingly.

210 SECTION 5. Section 73-7-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
211 amended as follows:

212 73-7-13. (1) The board shall admit to examination for a
213 cosmetology license any person who has made application to the
214 board in proper form, has paid the required fee, and who (a) is at
215 least seventeen (17) years of age, (b) can read, write and speak
216 English, (c) has successfully completed no less than fifteen
217 hundred (1500) hours over a period of no less than nine (9) months
218 in an accredited school of cosmetology, and (d) has a high school
219 education or its equivalent.

220 The board may, in its discretion, issue to any student who
221 has completed the prescribed hours in an accredited school in
222 Mississippi a temporary permit * * * until such time as the next
223 examination may be held, but such student shall be issued only one
224 (1) temporary permit. Application for an examination and license
225 shall be accompanied by two (2) recent head photographs of the
226 applicant. No temporary permit will be issued an applicant from
227 any other state to operate a beauty salon or school of cosmetology
228 in this state unless in case of emergency.

229 Applicants for the cosmetologist examination, after having
230 satisfactorily passed the prescribed examination, shall be issued
231 a cosmetology license which until June 30, 2000, shall be valid
232 for one (1) year, and after July 1, 2000, shall be valid for two
233 (2) years, and all said licenses shall be subject to renewal.

234 Any barber who can read, write and speak English and has
235 successfully completed no less than fifteen hundred (1500) hours

in an accredited barber school, and who holds a current valid certificate of registration to practice barbering and who holds a current valid license, is eligible to take the cosmetology examination to secure a cosmetology license upon successfully completing five hundred (500) hours in an accredited school of cosmetology. All fees for application, examination, registration and renewal thereof shall be the same as provided for cosmetologists.

(2) Each application or filing made under this section shall include the Social Security number(s) of the applicant in accordance with Section 93-11-64, Mississippi Code of 1972.

(3) Any licensed cosmetologist who is registered but not actively practicing in the State of Mississippi at the time of making application for renewal, may apply for registration on the "inactive" list. Such "inactive" list shall be maintained by the board and shall set out the names and post-office addresses of all cosmetologists registered but not actively practicing in this state, arranged alphabetically by name and also by the towns and states of their last known professional or residential address. Only the cosmetologists registered on the appropriate list as actively practicing in the State of Mississippi shall be authorized to practice such profession. For the purpose of this section, any licensed cosmetologist who has actively practiced his or her profession for at least three (3) months of the immediately preceding license renewal period shall be considered in active practice. No cosmetologist shall be registered on the "inactive" list until the cosmetologist has furnished a statement of intent to take such action to the board. Any licensed cosmetologist registered on the "inactive" list shall not be eligible for registration on the active list until either of the following conditions have been satisfied:

(a) Written application shall be submitted to the State Board of Cosmetology stating the reasons for such inactivity and

setting forth such other information as the board may require on
an individual basis and completion of the number of clock hours of
continuing education in cosmetology as approved by the board; or

(b) Evidence to the satisfaction of the board shall be
submitted that they have actively practiced their profession in
good standing in another state and have not been guilty of conduct
that would warrant suspension or revocation as provided by
applicable law; and

(c) Payment of the fee for processing such inactive
license.

SECTION 6. Section 73-7-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
amended as follows:

73-7-15. (1) The board shall admit to examination for a
cosmetology instructor's license any person who has made
application to the board in proper form, has paid the required
fee, and who:

(a) Is not less than twenty-one (21) years of age;
(b) Can read, write and speak English;
(c) Is a graduate of an accredited cosmetology school;
(d) Has a high school education or its equivalent;
(e) Has successfully completed seven hundred fifty
(750) hours of instructor training in an accredited school of
cosmetology;

(f) Has successfully completed twelve (12) semester
hours in college courses approved by the board;

(g) Holds a current, valid Mississippi cosmetology
license; and

(h) Has at least two (2) years' active practical
experience as a licensed cosmetologist or, as an alternative to
such experience, has successfully completed two thousand (2,000)
hours of instructor training in an accredited school of
cosmetology.

(2) The board shall admit to examination for an esthetics

302 instructor's license any person who has made application to the
303 board in proper form, has paid the required fee, and who:

304 (a) Is not less than twenty-one (21) years of age;

305 (b) Can read, write and speak English;

306 (c) Has a high school education or its equivalent;

307 (d) Has successfully completed six hundred (600) hours
308 of instructor training in an accredited school in which the
309 practice of esthetics is taught;

310 (e) Has successfully completed twelve (12) semester
311 hours in college courses approved by the board;

312 (f) Holds a current, valid Mississippi esthetician's
313 license; and

314 (g) Has had two (2) years of active practical
315 experience as an esthetician or, as an alternative to such
316 experience, has successfully completed one thousand (1,000) hours
317 of instructor training in an accredited school in which the
318 practice of esthetics is taught.

319 (3) The board shall admit to examination for a manicurist
320 instructor's license any person who has made application to the
321 board in proper form, has paid the required fee, and who:

322 (a) Is not less than twenty-one (21) years of age;

323 (b) Can read, write and speak English;

324 (c) Has a high school education or its equivalent;

325 (d) Has successfully completed six hundred (600) hours
326 of instructor training in an accredited school in which the
327 practice of manicuring is taught;

328 (e) Has successfully completed twelve (12) semester
329 hours in college courses approved by the board;

330 (f) Holds a current, valid Mississippi manicurist's
331 license; and

332 (g) Has had two (2) years of active practical
333 experience as a manicurist or, as an alternative to such
334 experience, has successfully completed one thousand (1,000) hours

of instructor training in an accredited school in which the practice of manicuring is taught.

(4) Applicants shall satisfactorily pass the examination prescribed by the board for licensing instructors prior to the issuance of the licenses provided for in this section. However, the board may, in its discretion, issue a temporary instructor's permit until such time as the next examination may be held, but such applicant shall be issued only one (1) temporary permit. All applications for an instructor's examination shall be accompanied by two (2) recent head photographs of the applicant.

(5) All instructors licensed pursuant to this section shall biennially obtain twenty-four (24) clock hours of continuing education in teacher training instruction in cosmetology or esthetics or manicuring, as the case may be, as approved by the board. Any instructor who fails to obtain the continuing education required by this subsection shall not be allowed to instruct nor enroll students under his or her license until such education requirement has been met. The board may issue an inactive instructor's license to such instructors, and an inactive license may be converted into an active license after proof satisfactory to the board of completion of at least twenty-four (24) clock hours of approved continuing education required for teacher training instruction.

(6) Each application or filing made under this section shall include the Social Security number(s) of the applicant in accordance with Section 93-11-64, Mississippi Code of 1972.

SECTION 7. Section 73-7-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

73-7-19. Until June 30, 2000, all licenses issued under the provisions of this chapter shall expire one (1) year from date of issue; provided, however, that the board may authorize any licensee to renew his or her license for a two-year period until June 30, 2000, after which all licenses shall be renewed

biennially pursuant to the fee schedule in Section 73-7-29.

Applications for renewal of licenses for cosmetologists, estheticians, manicurists, wig specialists and instructors must be accompanied by the required renewal fee. A grace period of sixty (60) days will be given in which to renew the license; and upon the expiration of the grace period of sixty (60) days, any applicant for the renewal of a license will be required to pay the required renewal fee and a delinquent fee in addition to the renewal fee. Said fees may be paid by either personal or certified check, cash or money order, under such safeguards, rules and regulations as the board may prescribe. Checks returned to the board because of insufficient funds shall result in nonrenewal of the license, which will require the penalty fee for insufficient fund checks plus all other amounts due for renewal of the license before the license may be renewed. After one (1) year has passed from the expiration date of the license, a delinquent fee must be paid for each year up to three (3) years, after which the required examination must be taken. All applications for examination required by this chapter shall expire ninety (90) days from the date thereof.

Each application or filing made under this section shall include the Social Security number(s) of the applicant in accordance with Section 93-11-64, Mississippi Code of 1972.

SECTION 8. Section 73-7-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

73-7-21. The board shall admit to examination for a manicurist's license any person who has made application to the board in proper form, has paid the required fee, and who:

- (a) Is at least seventeen (17) years of age;
- (b) Can read, write and speak English;
- (c) Has successfully completed no less than three hundred fifty (350) hours of practice and related theory in manicuring and pedicuring over a period of no less than nine (9)

401 weeks in an accredited school of cosmetology in this or any other
402 state; and

403 (d) Has a high school education or its equivalent.

404 Licensed manicurists desiring to pursue additional hours to
405 be eligible for a license as a cosmetologist may be credited with
406 the three hundred fifty (350) hours acquired in studying and
407 training to be a manicurist which may be applied to the number of
408 hours required for a cosmetology license examination.

409 The board shall adopt regulations governing the use of power
410 drills for the purpose of filing false or natural fingernails.
411 This paragraph shall stand repealed from and after July 1, 1998.

412 Each application or filing made under this section shall
413 include the Social Security number(s) of the applicant in
414 accordance with Section 93-11-64, Mississippi Code of 1972.

415 SECTION 9. Section 73-7-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
416 amended as follows:

417 73-7-29. The board shall assess fees in the following
418 amounts and for the following purposes:

- 419 (a) Application for examination and
420 reexamination - Cosmetologist, manicurist,
421 esthetician, wig specialist or
422 braiding or weaving specialist..... \$ 35.00
- 423 (b) Application for in-state
424 instructor-examination and
425 reexamination..... 50.00
- 426 (c) Application for out-of-state
427 instructor-examination, processing..... 55.00
- 428 (d) Until June 30, 2000, cosmetologist,
429 manicurist, esthetician, * * * wig
430 specialist license, or braiding or
431 weaving specialist, original and renewal..... 25.00
432 From and after July 1, 2000, biennial
433 original license and renewal..... 50.00

434	(e)	<u>Until June 30, 2000, master cosmetologist</u>	
435		license.....	35.00
436		<u>From and after July 1, 2000, biennial</u>	
437		<u>original license and renewal.....</u>	<u>70.00</u>
438	(f)	Cosmetologist, manicurist, esthetician, * * *	
439		wig specialist <u>or braiding or weaving</u>	
440		<u>specialist</u> by reciprocity, processing.....	55.00
441	(g)	<u>Until July 1, 2000, instructor license,</u>	
442		original and renewal.....	40.00
443		<u>After July 1, 2000, biennial original</u>	
444		<u>license and renewal.....</u>	<u>80.00</u>
445	(h)	Delinquent renewal penalty -	
446		Cosmetologist, manicurist, esthetician,	
447		wig specialist, <u>braiding or weaving</u>	
448		<u>specialist</u> and instructor:	
449		60 days to 1 year.....	25.00
450			plus license fee
451		Over 1 year to 3 years, per year.....	50.00
452			plus license fee
453	(i)	Salon application.....	50.00
454	(j)	Salon reinspection.....	35.00
455	(k)	Salon change of ownership or location	
456		or both.....	50.00
457	(l)	<u>Until June 30, 2000, salon license renewal.....</u>	30.00
458		<u>From and after July 1, 2000, biennial salon</u>	
459		<u>license renewal.....</u>	<u>60.00</u>
460	(m)	Salon delinquent renewal penalty -	
461		60 days to 1 year.....	25.00
462			plus license fee
463		Over 1 year	45.00
464			plus license fee
465	(n)	Application for a new school.....	300.00
466	(o)	New school reinspection.....	100.00

467 (p) School change of ownership..... 300.00
468 (q) School relocation..... 300.00
469 (r) Until June 30, 2000, school license renewal..... 75.00
470 From and after July 1, 2000, biennial school
471 license renewal..... 150.00
472 (s) School delinquent renewal penalty -
473 60 days to 1 year..... 100.00
474 plus license fee
475 (t) Duplicate license or lost renewal form..... 10.00
476 (u) Penalty for insufficient fund checks..... 20.00
477 (v) Affidavit processing..... 15.00
478 (w) Inactive license fee..... 15.00

479 The board may charge additional fees for services which the
480 board deems appropriate to carry out its intent and purpose.
481 These additional fees shall not exceed the cost of rendering the
482 service.

483 The board may authorize any licensee to renew his or her
484 license for a two-year period until June 30, 2000, after which all
485 licenses shall be renewed biennially pursuant to the above fee
486 schedule.

487 The board is fully authorized to make refunds of any deposits
488 received by the board for services which are not rendered, and may
489 refund any underpayments or overpayments of fees to licensees or
490 applicants.

491 SECTION 10. Section 73-7-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
492 amended as follows:

493 73-7-51. (1) From and after June 7, 1972, no person
494 required by Sections 73-7-51 through 73-7-61 to have a wig
495 specialist license or wig salon certificate of registration shall
496 conduct a wig salon or service a wig or hairpiece unless
497 application for an appropriate certificate or registration or
498 license has been made. All persons required by law to obtain a
499 certificate of registration or a license must file application

therefor within thirty (30) days after May 8, 1972. However, upon the proper filing of an application by a holder of a current valid wigologist permit as issued by the board, such holder shall be issued a wig specialist license, and upon the proper filing of an application by a holder of a current, valid wig shop certificate of registration as issued by the board, such holder shall be issued a wig salon certificate of registration.

(2) From and after September 1, 1999, no person required by law to have a braiding or weaving specialist license or braiding or weaving salon certificate of registration shall provide braiding or weaving services or conduct a braiding or weaving salon without possessing an appropriate certificate of registration or license. All such persons required by law to obtain a certificate of registration or license shall file application therefor within thirty (30) days after July 1, 1999.

SECTION 11. Section 73-7-53, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

73-7-53. Any applicant who is at least seventeen (17) years of age, can read, write and speak English, has a high school education or its equivalent, and has successfully completed no less than three hundred (300) hours of practice and instruction and related theory in the care and treatment of wigs over a period of no less than eight (8) weeks in an accredited school of cosmetology * * * is eligible to take the examination to secure a wig specialist license.

Any applicant who is at least seventeen (17) years of age, can read, write and speak English, has a high school education or its equivalent, and his successfully completed no less than three hundred (300) hours of practice and instruction and related theory in braiding or weaving of hair over a period of no less than eight (8) weeks in an accredited school of cosmetology is eligible to take the examination to secure a braiding or weaving specialist license.

Application for an examination and license shall be accompanied by two (2) recent head photographs. The board shall hold examinations for wig specialists and braiding or weaving specialists at least twice a year and at such other times as the board may determine.

Applicants for wig specialist license or braiding or weaving specialist license, after having satisfactorily passed the prescribed examination, shall be issued a wig specialist license or braiding or weaving specialist license which shall be valid for one (1) year, and from and after July 1, 2000, shall be valid for two (2) years. All said licenses shall be subject to renewal.

All fees for application, examination and registration for a wig specialist license or braiding or weaving specialist license and the renewal thereof shall be the same as herein provided for cosmetologists.

A person holding a wig specialist license may perform for compensation services limited to a wig or hairpiece.

SECTION 12. Section 73-7-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

73-7-55. Registered wig specialists and braiding or weaving specialists desiring to pursue additional hours to be eligible for a certificate of registration as a cosmetologist may be credited with the three hundred (300) hours acquired in studying and training to be a wig specialist or braiding or weaving specialist which may be applied to the number of hours required to be eligible to take a cosmetologist's examination.

SECTION 13. Section 73-7-57, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

73-7-57. (1) All wig salon owners shall have a wig salon license and shall pay to the board the required license fee therefor and pay the required renewal fee for the renewal thereof.

Prior to the initial issuance of such a license, the board shall inspect the premises to determine if same qualifies with the law,

upon payment by the applicant of the required inspection fee.

A person holding a wig salon license may maintain an establishment in which services shall be limited to wigs or hairpieces and performed only by licensed wig specialists and/or licensed cosmetologists.

(2) All braiding or weaving salon owners shall have a braiding or weaving salon license and shall pay to the board the required license fee therefor and pay the required renewal fee for the renewal thereof. Prior to the initial issuance of such a license, the board shall inspect the premises to determine if it qualifies with the law, upon payment by the applicant of the required inspection fee. A person holding a braiding or weaving salon license may maintain an establishment in which services shall be limited to those performed only by licensed braiding or weaving specialists and/or licensed cosmetologists.

SECTION 14. Section 73-7-59, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

73-7-59. Nothing in Sections 73-7-51 through 73-7-61 as amended by this Senate Bill No. 2356, 1999 Regular Session, shall be construed to cause any person who, as of May 8, 1972, holds a valid cosmetology license to make any application or take any additional training in order to continue his or her practice as it then exists. Nothing in said sections shall be construed to force any person who desires to obtain a valid cosmetology license to take any training in addition to the fifteen hundred (1500) hours now required.

SECTION 15. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 1999.