

CHAPTER 477

COSMETOLOGY

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477.011 Short title.—This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Florida Cosmetology Act."

History.—s. 1, ch. 78-253; s. 2, ch. 81-318; ss. 35, 36, ch. 85-297; s. 4, ch. 91-429.

477.012 Purpose.—The Legislature recognizes that the practice of cosmetology involves the use of tools and chemicals which may be dangerous when applied improperly and, therefore, deems it necessary in the interest of public health to regulate the practice of cosmetology in this state. However, restrictions shall be imposed only to the extent necessary to protect the public from significant and discernible danger to health and not in a manner which will unreasonably affect the competitive market. Further, consumer protection for both health and economic matters shall be afforded the public through legal remedies provided for in this act.

History.—s. 1, ch. 78-253; s. 2, ch. 81-318; ss. 35, 36, ch. 85-297; s. 4, ch. 91-429.

477.013 Definitions.—As used in this chapter:

- (1) "Board" means the Board of Cosmetology.
- (2) "Department" means the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.
- (3) "Cosmetologist" means a person who is licensed to engage in the practice of cosmetology in this state under the authority of this chapter.
- (4) "Cosmetology" means the mechanical or chemical treatment of the head, face, and scalp for aesthetic rather than medical purposes, including, but not limited to, hair shampooing, hair cutting, hair arranging, hair coloring, permanent waving, hair relaxing, hair removing, pedicuring, and manicuring, for compensation.

(5) "Specialist" means any person holding a specialty registration in one or more of the specialties registered under this chapter.

(6) "Specialty" means the practice of one or more of the following:

(a) Manicuring, or the cutting, polishing, tinting, coloring, cleansing, adding, or extending of the nails, and massaging of the hands. This term includes any procedure or process for the affixing of artificial nails, except those nails which may be applied solely by use of a simple adhesive.

(b) Pedicuring, or the shaping, polishing, tinting, or cleansing of the nails of the feet, and massaging or beautifying of the feet.

(c) Facials, or the massaging or treating of the face or scalp with oils, creams, lotions, or other preparations.

(7) "Shampooing" means the washing of the hair with soap and water or with a special preparation, or applying hair tonics.

(8) "Specialty salon" means any place of business wherein the practice of one or all of the specialties as defined in subsection (6) are engaged in or carried on.

(9) "Hair braiding" means the interweaving of hair for compensation without cutting, coloring, permanent waving, relaxing, removing, weaving, and chemical treatment.

History.—s. 1, ch. 78-253; ss. 13, 15, 25, 30, 34, 36, 62, ch. 80-406; s. 2, ch. 81-318; ss. 21, 35, 36, ch. 85-297; s. 1, ch. 87-69; s. 35, ch. 89-344; s. 4, ch. 91-429; s. 150, ch. 94-119; s. 166, ch. 94-218; s. 66, ch. 95-144.

477.0132 Hair braiding registration.—Persons whose occupation or practice is confined solely to hair braiding must register with the department, pay the applicable registration fee, and take a two-day 16 hour course. The course shall be board approved and consist of 5 hours of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, 5 hours of sanitation and sterilization, 4 hours of disorders and diseases of the scalp, and 2 hours of studies regarding laws affecting cosmetology.

History.—s. 151, ch. 94-119.

477.0135 Exemptions.—

(1) This chapter does not apply to the following persons when practicing pursuant to their professional or occupational responsibilities and duties:

(a) Persons authorized under the laws of this state to practice medicine, surgery, osteopathy, chiropractic, massage, naturopathy, or podiatry.

(b) Commissioned medical or surgical officers of the United States Armed Forces hospital services.

(c) Registered nurses under the laws of this state.

(d) Persons practicing barbering under the laws of this state.

(e) Persons employed in federal, state, or local institutions, hospitals, or military bases as cosmetologists whose practices are limited to the inmates, patients, or authorized military personnel of such institutions, hospitals, or bases.

(f) Persons whose practice is limited to the application of cosmetic products to another person in connection with a medical procedure.

tion with the sale, or attempted sale, of such products at retail without compensation from such other person other than the regular retail price of such merchandise.

(g) Graduates of licensed cosmetology schools or cosmetology programs offered in public school systems, which schools or programs are certified by the Department of Education, pending the result of the first licensing examination for which such graduates are eligible following graduation, provided such graduates shall practice under the supervision of a licensed cosmetologist in a licensed cosmetology salon. A graduate who fails the examination may continue to practice under the supervision of a licensed cosmetologist in a licensed cosmetology salon if he applies for the next available examination and until he receives the results of that examination. No graduate may continue to practice under this exemption if he fails the examination twice.

(2) A license is not required of any person whose occupation or practice is confined solely to shampooing.

(3) A license or registration is not required of any person whose occupation or practice is confined solely to cutting, trimming, polishing, or cleansing the fingernails of any person when said cutting, trimming, polishing, or cleansing is done in a barbershop licensed pursuant to chapter 476 which is carrying on a regular and customary business of barbering, and such individual has been practicing the activities set forth in this subsection prior to October 1, 1985.

History.—ss. 68, 117, ch. 83-329; ss. 22, 35, 36, ch. 85-297; s. 2, ch. 87-69; s. 28, ch. 88-392; s. 4, ch. 91-429.

477.014 Qualifications for practice.—On and after January 1, 1979, no person other than a duly licensed cosmetologist shall practice cosmetology or use the name or title of cosmetologist.

History.—s. 1, ch. 78-253; s. 2, ch. 81-318; ss. 35, 36, ch. 85-297; s. 36, ch. 89-344; s. 4, ch. 91-429.

477.015 Board of Cosmetology.—

(1) There is created within the department the Board of Cosmetology consisting of seven members, who shall be appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate, and whose function it shall be to carry out the provisions of this act.

(2) Five members of the board shall be licensed cosmetologists and shall have been engaged in the practice of cosmetology in this state for not less than 5 years. Two members of the board shall be laypersons. Each board member shall be a resident of this state and shall have been a resident of this state for not less than 5 continuous years.

(3) The Governor may at any time fill vacancies on the board for the remainder of unexpired terms. Each member of the board shall hold over after the expiration of his term until a successor is duly appointed and qualified. No board member shall serve more than two consecutive terms, whether full or partial.

(4) Before assuming his duties as a board member, each appointee shall take the constitutional oath of office and shall file it with the Department of State, which shall then issue to such member a certificate of his appointment.

(5) The board shall, in the month of January, elect from its number a chairman and a vice chairman.

(6) The board shall hold such meetings during the year as it may determine to be necessary, one of which shall be the annual meeting. The chairman of the board shall have the authority to call other meetings at his discretion. A quorum of the board shall consist of not less than four members.

(7) Each member of the board shall receive \$50 for each day spent in the performance of official board business, with the total annual compensation per member not to exceed \$2,000. Additionally, board members shall receive per diem and mileage as provided in s. 112.061, from place of residence to place of meeting and return.

(8) Each board member shall be held accountable to the Governor for the proper performance of all his duties and obligations. The Governor shall investigate any complaints or unfavorable reports received concerning the actions of the board, or its members, and shall take appropriate action thereon, which action may include removal of any board member. The Governor may remove from office any board member for neglect of duty, incompetence, or unprofessional or dishonorable conduct.

History.—s. 1, ch. 78-253; ss. 13, 15, 25, 30, 34, 39, 62, ch. 80-406; s. 2, ch. 81-318; ss. 23, 35, 36, ch. 85-297; s. 4, ch. 91-429; s. 167, ch. 94-218.

477.016 Rulemaking.—The board is authorized to adopt such rules not inconsistent with law as may be necessary to carry out the duties and authority conferred upon the board by this chapter.

History.—s. 1, ch. 78-253; ss. 13, 15, 25, 30, 34, 40, 62, ch. 80-406; s. 2, ch. 81-318; ss. 35, 36, ch. 85-297; s. 4, ch. 91-429.

477.017 Legal services.—The department shall provide all legal services needed to carry out the provisions of this act.

History.—s. 1, ch. 78-253; s. 2, ch. 81-318; ss. 35, 36, ch. 85-297; s. 4, ch. 91-429.

477.018 Investigative services.—The department shall provide all investigative services required by the board or the department in carrying out the provisions of this act.

History.—s. 1, ch. 78-253; ss. 13, 15, 25, 30, 34, 41, 62, ch. 80-406; s. 2, ch. 81-318; ss. 35, 36, ch. 85-297; s. 4, ch. 91-429.

477.019 Cosmetologists; qualifications; licensure; license renewal; endorsement.—

(1) A person desiring to be licensed as a cosmetologist shall apply to the department for licensure.

(2) An applicant shall be entitled to take the licensure examination to practice cosmetology if the applicant:

(a) Is at least 16 years of age or has received a high school diploma;

(b) Pays the required application fee; and

(c)1. Holds an active valid license to practice cosmetology in another state or country, has held the license for at least 1 year, and does not qualify for licensure by endorsement as provided for in subsection (5); or

2. Has received a minimum of 1,200 hours of training as established by the board, which shall include, but shall not be limited to, the equivalent of completion of services directly related to the practice of cosmetology at one of the following:

a. A school of cosmetology licensed pursuant to chapter 246.

b. A cosmetology program within the public school system.

c. The Cosmetology Division of the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, provided the division meets the standards of this chapter.

d. A government-operated cosmetology program in this state.

The board shall establish by rule procedures whereby the school or program may certify that a person is qualified to take the required examination after the completion of a minimum of 1,000 actual school hours. If the person then passes the examination, he shall have satisfied this requirement; but if he fails the examination, he shall not be qualified to take the examination again until the completion of the full requirements provided by this section.

(3) Upon an applicant receiving a passing grade, as established by board rule, on the examination and paying the initial licensing fee, the department shall issue a license to practice cosmetology.

(4) Renewal of license registration shall be accomplished pursuant to rules adopted by the board.

(5) The board shall adopt rules specifying procedures for the licensure by endorsement of practitioners desiring to be licensed in this state who hold a current active license in another state and who have met qualifications substantially similar to, equivalent to, or greater than the qualifications required of applicants from this state.

History.—s. 1, ch. 78-253; s. 1, ch. 80-132; ss. 13, 15, 25, 30, 34, 42, 62, ch. 80-406; s. 355, ch. 81-259; s. 2, ch. 81-318; ss. 69, 116, ch. 83-329; ss. 24, 35, 36, ch. 85-297; s. 3, ch. 87-69; s. 37, ch. 89-344; s. 1, ch. 90-4; s. 4, ch. 91-429.

477.0201 Specialty registration; qualifications; registration renewal; endorsement.—

(1) Any person is qualified for registration as a specialist in any one or more of the specialty practices within the practice of cosmetology under this chapter who:

(a) Is at least 16 years of age or has received a high school diploma.

(b) Has received a certificate of completion in a specialty pursuant to s. 477.013(6) from one of the following:

1. A school licensed pursuant to s. 477.023.

2. A school licensed pursuant to chapter 246 or the equivalent licensing authority of another state.

3. A specialty program within the public school system.

4. A specialty division within the Cosmetology Division of the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, provided the training programs comply with minimum curriculum requirements established by the board.

(2) A person desiring to be registered as a specialist shall apply to the department in writing upon forms prepared and furnished by the department.

(3) Upon paying the initial registration fee, the department shall register the applicant to practice one or more of the specialty practices within the practice of cosmetology.

(4) Renewal of registration shall be accomplished pursuant to rules adopted by the board.

(5) The board shall adopt rules specifying procedures for the registration of specialty practitioners desir-

ing to be registered in this state who have been registered or licensed and are practicing in states which have registering or licensing standards substantially similar to, equivalent to, or more stringent than the standards of this state.

History.—ss. 25, 36, ch. 85-297; s. 4, ch. 87-69; s. 4, ch. 91-429; s. 39, ch. 95-144.

477.0212 Inactive status.—

(1) A cosmetologist's license that has become inactive may be reactivated under s. 477.019 upon application to the department.

(2) The board shall promulgate rules relating to licenses which have become inactive and for the renewal of inactive licenses. The board shall prescribe by rule a fee not to exceed \$50 for the reactivation of an inactive license and a fee not to exceed \$50 for the renewal of an inactive license.

History.—ss. 110, 117, ch. 83-329; ss. 27, 35, 36, ch. 85-297; s. 39, ch. 89-344; s. 4, ch. 91-429; s. 228, ch. 94-119.

477.0213 Cosmetology graduates of Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind; licenses.—

The department shall license candidates upon graduation from the Cosmetology Division of the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind. The department shall, by rule, provide fees for licenses issued to candidates from the Cosmetology Division of the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind and shall also provide, by rule, for the type of licenses to be issued and for any required applications.

History.—s. 3, ch. 80-132; s. 2, ch. 81-318; ss. 35, 36, ch. 85-297; s. 4, ch. 91-429.

477.022 Examinations.—

(1) The board shall specify by rule the general areas of competency to be covered by examinations for the licensing under this chapter of cosmetologists. The rules shall include the relative weight assigned in grading each area, the grading criteria to be used by the examiner, and the score necessary to achieve a passing grade. The board shall ensure that examinations adequately measure both an applicant's competency and his knowledge of related statutory requirements. Professional testing services may be utilized to formulate the examinations. The board may, by rule, offer a written clinical examination or a performance examination, or both, in addition to a written theory examination.

(2) The board shall ensure that examinations comply with state and federal equal employment opportunity guidelines.

(3) The department shall, in accordance with rules established by the board, examine persons who file applications for licensure under this chapter in all matters pertaining to the practice of cosmetology. The examination shall be given at least once yearly and at such other times as the department deems necessary.

(4) The board shall adopt rules providing for reexamination of applicants who have failed the examinations.

(5) All licensing examinations shall be conducted in such manner that the applicant shall be known to the department by number only until his examination is completed and the proper grade determined. An accurate record of each examination shall be made; and that record, together with all examination papers, shall be filed

with the secretary of the department and shall be kept for reference and inspection for a period of not less than 2 years immediately following the examination.

(6) Effective April 21, 1982, the board shall maintain testing facilities in the cities in which testing facilities have been located for the past 5 years.

History.—s. 1, ch. 78-253; ss. 13, 15, 25, 30, 34, 44, 62, ch. 80-406; s. 2, ch. 81-318; ss. 34, 46, ch. 82-179; s. 96, ch. 83-218; s. 71, ch. 83-329; ss. 35, 36, ch. 85-297; s. 40, ch. 89-344; s. 4, ch. 91-429.

477.023 Schools of cosmetology; licensure.—No private school of cosmetology shall be permitted to operate without a license issued by the State Board of Independent Postsecondary Vocational, Technical, Trade, and Business Schools pursuant to chapter 246. However, nothing herein shall be construed to prevent certification by the Department of Education of cosmetology training programs within the public school system or to prevent government operation of any other program of cosmetology in this state.

History.—s. 1, ch. 78-253; ss. 13, 15, 25, 30, 34, 45, 62, ch. 80-406; s. 2, ch. 81-318; ss. 35, 36, ch. 85-297; s. 41, ch. 89-344; s. 4, ch. 91-429.

477.025 Cosmetology salons; specialty salons; requisites; licensure; inspection.—

(1) No cosmetology salon or specialty salon shall be permitted to operate without a license issued by the department.

(2) The board shall adopt rules governing the licensure and operation of salons and specialty salons and their facilities, personnel, safety and sanitary requirements, and the license application and granting process.

(3) Any person, firm, or corporation desiring to operate a cosmetology salon or specialty salon in the state shall submit to the department an application upon forms provided by the department and accompanied by any relevant information requested by the department and by an application fee.

(4) Upon receiving the application, the department may cause an investigation to be made of the proposed cosmetology salon or specialty salon.

(5) When an applicant fails to meet all the requirements provided herein, the department shall deny the application in writing and shall list the specific requirements not met. No applicant denied licensure because of failure to meet the requirements herein shall be precluded from reapplying for licensure.

(6) When the department determines that the proposed cosmetology salon or specialty salon may reasonably be expected to meet the requirements set forth herein, the department shall grant the license upon such conditions as it shall deem proper under the circumstances and upon payment of the original licensing fee.

(7) No license for operation of a cosmetology salon or specialty salon may be transferred from the name of the original licensee to another. It may be transferred from one location to another only upon approval by the department, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

(8) Renewal of license registration for cosmetology salons or specialty salons shall be accomplished pursuant to rules adopted by the board. The board is further authorized to adopt rules governing delinquent renewal of licenses and may impose penalty fees for delinquent renewal.

(9) The board is authorized to adopt rules governing the periodic inspection of cosmetology salons and specialty salons licensed under this chapter.

History.—s. 1, ch. 78-253; ss. 13, 15, 25, 30, 34, 46, 62, ch. 80-406; s. 2, ch. 81-318; ss. 29, 35, 36, ch. 85-297; s. 4, ch. 91-429.

477.026 Fees; disposition.—

(1) The board shall set fees according to the following schedule:

(a) For cosmetologists, fees for original licensing, license renewal, and delinquent renewal shall not exceed \$25.

(b) For cosmetologists, fees for endorsement application, examination, and reexamination shall not exceed \$50.

(c) For cosmetology and specialty salons, fees for license application, original licensing, license renewal, and delinquent renewal shall not exceed \$50.

(d) For specialists, fees for application and endorsement registration shall not exceed \$30.

(e) For specialists, fees for initial registration, registration renewal, and delinquent renewal shall not exceed \$50.

(f) For hair braiders, fees for registration shall not exceed \$25.

(2) All moneys collected by the department from fees authorized by this chapter shall be paid into the Professional Regulation Trust Fund, which fund is created in the department, and shall be applied in accordance with ss. 215.37 and 455.219. The Legislature may appropriate any excess moneys from this fund to the General Revenue Fund.

(3) The department, with the advice of the board, shall prepare and submit a proposed budget in accordance with law.

History.—s. 1, ch. 78-253; ss. 13, 15, 25, 30, 34, 47, 62, ch. 80-406; s. 2, ch. 81-318; ss. 24, 46, ch. 82-179; ss. 30, 35, 36, ch. 85-297; s. 5, ch. 87-69; s. 43, ch. 89-344; s. 4, ch. 91-429; s. 152, ch. 94-119.

477.0263 Cosmetology services to be performed in licensed salon; exception.—

(1) Cosmetology services shall be performed only by licensed cosmetologists in licensed salons, except as otherwise provided in this section.

(2) Pursuant to rules established by the board, cosmetology services may be performed by a licensed cosmetologist in a location other than a licensed salon, including, but not limited to, a nursing home, hospital, or residence, when a client for reasons of ill health is unable to go to a licensed salon. Arrangements for the performance of such cosmetology services in a location other than a licensed salon shall be made only through a licensed salon.

(3) Any person who holds a valid cosmetology license in any state or who is authorized to practice cosmetology in any country, territory, or jurisdiction of the United States may perform cosmetology services in a location other than a licensed salon when such services are performed in connection with the motion picture, fashion photography, theatrical, or television industry; a manufacturer trade show demonstration; or an educational seminar.

History.—ss. 75, 117, ch. 83-329; ss. 35, 36, ch. 85-297; s. 48, ch. 89-374; s. 4, ch. 91-429.

477.0265 Prohibited acts.—

(1) It is unlawful for any person to:

(a) Engage in the practice of cosmetology or a specialty without an active license as a cosmetologist or registration as a specialist issued by the department pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

(b) Own, operate, maintain, open, establish, conduct, or have charge of, either alone or with another person or persons, a cosmetology salon or specialty salon:

1. Which is not licensed under the provisions of this chapter; or

2. In which a person not licensed or registered as a cosmetologist or a specialist is permitted to perform cosmetology services or any specialty.

(c) Engage in willful or repeated violations of this chapter or of any rule adopted by the board.

(d) Permit an employed person to engage in the practice of cosmetology or of a specialty unless such person holds a valid, active license as a cosmetologist or registration as a specialist.

(e) Obtain or attempt to obtain a license or registration for money, other than the required fee, or any other thing of value or by fraudulent misrepresentations.

(f) Use or attempt to use a license to practice cosmetology or a registration to practice a specialty, which license or registration is suspended or revoked.

(2) Any person who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

History.—ss. 72, 117, ch. 83-329; ss. 31, 35, 36, ch. 85-297; s. 6, ch. 87-69; s. 110, ch. 91-224; s. 4, ch. 91-429.

477.028 Disciplinary proceedings.—

(1) The board shall have the power to revoke or suspend the license of a cosmetologist licensed under this chapter, or the registration of a specialist registered under this chapter, and to reprimand, censure, deny subsequent licensure or registration of, or otherwise discipline a cosmetologist or a specialist licensed or registered under this chapter in any of the following cases:

(a) Upon proof that a license or registration has been obtained by fraud or misrepresentation.

(b) Upon proof that the holder of a license or registration is guilty of fraud or deceit or of gross negligence, incompetency, or misconduct in the practice or instruction of cosmetology or a specialty.

(c) Upon proof that the holder of a license or registration is guilty of aiding, assisting, procuring, or advising any unlicensed person to practice as a cosmetologist.

(2) The board shall have the power to revoke or suspend the license of a cosmetology salon or a specialty salon licensed under this chapter, to deny subsequent licensure of such salon, or to reprimand, censure, or otherwise discipline the owner of such salon in either of the following cases:

(a) Upon proof that a license has been obtained by fraud or misrepresentation.

(b) Upon proof that the holder of a license is guilty of fraud or deceit or of gross negligence, incompetency, or misconduct in the operation of the salon so licensed.

(3) Disciplinary proceedings shall be conducted pursuant to the provisions of chapter 120.

History.—s. 1, ch. 78-253; s. 2, ch. 81-318; s. 73, ch. 83-329; ss. 32, 35, 36, ch. 85-297; s. 7, ch. 87-69; s. 44, ch. 89-344; s. 4, ch. 91-429.

477.029 Penalty.—

(1) It is unlawful for any person to:

(a) Hold himself out as a cosmetologist or specialist unless duly licensed or registered as provided in this chapter.

(b) Operate any cosmetology salon unless it has been duly licensed as provided in this chapter.

(c) Permit an employed person to practice cosmetology or a specialty unless duly licensed or registered as provided in this chapter.

(d) Present as his own the license of another.

(e) Give false or forged evidence to the department in obtaining any license provided for in this chapter.

(f) Impersonate any other licenseholder of like or different name.

(g) Use or attempt to use a license that has been revoked.

(h) Violate any provision of s. 455.227(1), s. 477.0265, or s. 477.028.

(i) Violate or refuse to comply with any provision of this chapter or chapter 455 or a rule or final order of the board or the department.

(2) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be subject to one or more of the following penalties, as determined by the board:

(a) Revocation or suspension of any license or registration issued pursuant to this chapter.

(b) Issuance of a reprimand or censure.

(c) Imposition of an administrative fine not to exceed \$500 for each count or separate offense.

(d) Placement on probation for a period of time and subject to such reasonable conditions as the board may specify.

(e) Refusal to certify to the department an applicant for licensure.

History.—s. 1, ch. 78-253; s. 2, ch. 81-318; s. 74, ch. 83-329; ss. 33, 35, 36, ch. 85-297; s. 8, ch. 87-69; s. 45, ch. 89-344; s. 4, ch. 91-429; s. 10, ch. 94-119.

477.031 Civil proceedings.—As cumulative of any other remedy or criminal prosecution, the department may file a proceeding in the name of the state seeking issuance of a restraining order, injunction, or writ of mandamus against any person who is or has been violating any of the provisions of this chapter or the lawful rules or orders of the department.

History.—s. 1, ch. 78-253; s. 2, ch. 81-318; ss. 35, 36, ch. 85-297; s. 4, ch. 91-429.