

# HB0788 | The Textured Hair Licensing Act

Natural Hair  
Professionals  
Coalition  
(NHPC)

Advancing the promise of the CROWN Act through consumer protection, standard care, and equitable workforce access

Sponsored by Representative Carol Ammons, HB0788 creates a stand-alone Illinois licensing framework for textured hair care as a distinct, nonchemical field. Building on the promise of the CROWN Act, the bill helps ensure that textured hair, including Afro-textured hair and services such as African hair braiding, loc care, and twisting, is both protected from discrimination and properly recognized within our professional and regulatory systems.

## The problem

Illinois has taken important steps to protect natural hair through the CROWN Act, but protection from discrimination alone does not create professional standards, workforce pathways, or consumer safeguards. Since hair braiding was folded into cosmetology, many textured-hair practitioners have continued to experience limited access to relevant education, teaching positions, and hiring opportunities in corporate beauty schools and salons.

## What HB0788 does

Creates a stand-alone licensure framework for textured hair care, recognizes the field as a distinct non-chemical area of professional study and practice, establishes safety, sanitation, accountability, and scope-of-practice standards, and creates clear pathways for licensure, transition, and oversight

## Key provisions

- Defines textured hair care as its own regulated field of non-chemical education and practice.
- Establishes licenses for practitioners, teachers, schools, sponsors, and shops
- Creates multiple pathways to licensure, including apprenticeship and transition options
- Sets sanitation, public health, and standard-of-care expectations
- Supports oversight and accountability through IDFPR

## Why it matters

**Consumer protection:** clearer standards for sanitation, scalp health, safety, and accountability.

**Standard of care:** recognizes textured hair care as a specialized field and creates standards for safe, culturally competent services involving African hair braiding, loc care, and twisting.

**Workforce access:** expands entry points for practitioners, teachers, and small business owners.

**Economic inclusion:** expands access to careers, teaching, entrepreneurship, and participation in Illinois' beauty, retail, and distribution economy.

**Please vote YES on HB0788 to protect consumers, modernize standards for textured hair care, and expand equitable workforce opportunity in Illinois.**

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