

## Textured Hair Licensing Act

*Building on the promise of the CROWN Act through consumer protection, professional standards, and equitable workforce access in Illinois*

Sponsored by Representative Carol Ammons, HB788 creates a stand-alone Illinois licensing framework for textured hair care as a distinct, nonchemical field. It establishes cirrology as its own professional pathway with clear standards for public health, training, licensure, and consumer protection.

<b>Why this bill is needed</b>	Current licensure structures have historically failed to center textured hair education. HB788 addresses barriers to licensure, training, and safe culturally competent services while creating clearer sanitation, safety, and accountability standards.
<b>What services are covered</b>	HB788 covers nonchemical textured hair care, including consultation, cleansing, conditioning, detangling, natural styling, braiding, loc care, protective styling, extension-based textured styling, and client education. It does not authorize chemical straightening, permanent coloring, barber-style shaving, or medical diagnosis and treatment.
<b>How licensure works</b>	The bill creates licensed cirrologists, teachers, schools, continuing education sponsors, registered shops, apprenticeship partners, and partner employers. The primary pathway is a 600-hour school program covering textured hair science, scalp health, sanitation, infection control, styling, business, and law.
<b>Paid apprenticeship pathway</b>	HB788 creates a secondary paid apprenticeship pathway to expand access and reduce barriers to entry. The pathway includes 1,200 hours of supervised paid practical training, 150 hours of related instruction, and structured oversight.
<b>Transition protections</b>	The bill includes an 18-month transition period so current Illinois hair braiders and approved entities are not unnecessarily disrupted. Current hair braider licensees in good standing may transition into the corresponding cirrology category for renewal purposes.
<b>Schools and existing programs</b>	HB788 does not merge cirrology into cosmetology. Existing barber or cosmetology schools may apply to add a cirrology program, but it must be approved as a separate program and meet cirrology-specific standards.

Cirrology is the professional field dedicated to the non-chemical, health-centered study and care of textured hair, including coily, wiry, curly, and wavy hair. The name defines a distinct field with its own scope, standards, and body of knowledge, instead of continuing to rely on language that has never fully captured all of its work. This mirrors how fields such as cosmetology, dermatology, and trichology evolved by adopting terminology that clarified their expertise and authority. The term combines “cirrus,” meaning curl or coil, and “-ology,” meaning the study of.

### Why HB788 matters

- HB788 strengthens consumer protection and standard of care by creating clearer sanitation, safety, accountability, and scope-of-practice standards for textured hair services.
- A 600-hour school pathway creates a more realistic path for students who cannot afford out-of-pocket or upfront tuition costs. HB788 expands access through both school-based training and paid apprenticeship pathways.

- It opens stronger pathways for small schools, educator development, and program growth by allowing textured hair programs to pursue approvals and opportunities that were not meaningfully accessible under the previous license model.
- It supports Black business growth and workforce equity in Illinois by helping more professionals move from solo work into hiring, education, and long-term economic participation.

### **Board of Cirrology**

HB788 creates a 9-member Board of Cirrology within IDFPR to advise on standards, curriculum, licensing, apprenticeship, transition, and consumer protection.

### **Direct ask**

**Please support HB788 to protect consumers, modernize textured hair care standards, and expand equitable workforce opportunities in Illinois.**

### **Natural Hair Professionals Coalition**

**NHPC follow-up contact:** Tamekia Swint (773-552-4257) or Nadra Smiley (708-254-6538) | [nhpc2025@gmail.com](mailto:nhpc2025@gmail.com)