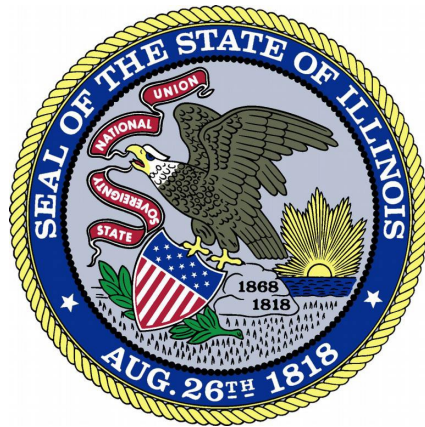


Governor's Office of Management and Budget

Alexis Sturm

Director



Regulatory Sunset Act Report

on

The Barber, Cosmetology, Esthetics, Hair Braiding, and Nail Technology Act of 1985

April 18, 2025

**To the Honorable JB Pritzker
Governor of Illinois**

Governor Pritzker:

As required by Section 5 of the Regulatory Sunset Act, GOMB facilitated a study with the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR), the agency responsible for oversight of the Barber, Cosmetology, Esthetics, Hair Braiding, and Nail Technology Act of 1985 (225 ILCS 410/1 et seq.) (the Act), which is scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2026. This report provides justification for the recommendation to modify this Act.

The Act should be updated where necessary to reflect modernizations made to the different professional acts in Illinois, such as providing notice through email, and the Act should be updated to use gender-neutral terms.

GOMB's examination of this Act was conducted considering the factors set out in Sections 6 and 7 of the Regulatory Sunset Act. The following report outlines the work of GOMB's study and details the criteria and data utilized to arrive at the above recommendation.

Respectfully,

Alexis Sturm
Director
Governor's Office of Management and Budget

GOMB Regulatory Sunset Act Report: The Barber, Cosmetology, Esthetics, Hair Braiding, and Nail Technology Act of 1985

The State of Illinois, acting through the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR or the Department), licenses the professions of barbering, cosmetology, esthetics, hair braiding, and nail technology pursuant to the Act.

Section 1-2 of the Act states that “the practices of barbering, cosmetology, esthetics, hair braiding, and nail technology in the State of Illinois are hereby declared to affect the public health, safety and welfare and to be subject to regulation and control in the public interest. It is further declared to be a matter of public interest and concern that the professions merit and receive the confidence of the public and that only qualified persons be permitted to practice said professions in the State of Illinois.” 225 ILCS 410/1-2.

1. License Count and Fee Structure

As of March 30, 2024, IDFPR quantifies 87,272 active licenses under this Act in Illinois. See the following table for the number of licenses issued by IDFPR in the fiscal years indicated:

| License Type | FY20 | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24 |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Barber | 4,427 | 4,735 | 3,318 | 3,740 | 3,889 |
| Barber Teacher | 249 | 271 | 216 | 249 | 259 |
| Barber School | 33 | 40 | 34 | 38 | 38 |
| Cosmetologist | 61,475 | 64,284 | 55,230 | 56,939 | 52,913 |
| Cosmetologist Teacher | 2,154 | 1,949 | 2,055 | 1,642 | 1,843 |
| Private Cosmetology School | 112 | 101 | 100 | 89 | 95 |
| Public Cosmetology School | 19 | 18 | 20 | 16 | 21 |
| Cosmetology Clinic Teacher | 12 | 12 | 13 | 9 | 9 |
| Esthetician | 8,253 | 9,539 | 8,909 | 9,898 | 10,405 |
| Esthetician Teacher | 194 | 195 | 213 | 176 | 235 |
| Esthetics School | 12 | 11 | 15 | 13 | 14 |
| Nail Technician | 11,675 | 11,140 | 11,856 | 12,278 | 11,722 |
| Nail Technician Teacher | 90 | 97 | 113 | 109 | 122 |
| Nail Technician School | 20 | 18 | 22 | 23 | 19 |
| Salon/Shop | 6,081 | 4,677 | 5,383 | 5,559 | 4,719 |
| Continuing Education Sponsor | 316 | 285 | 336 | 314 | 301 |
| Hair Braider | 490 | 450 | 609 | 671 | 580 |

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| Hair Braider Teacher | 84 | 67 | 76 | 79 | 79 |
| Hair Braider School | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |

The following tables display the licensure fee structure for each listed License Type under the Act:

| License Type: Cosmetologists, Barbers, Estheticians, Hair Braiders, Nail Technicians Cosmetology Teachers, Cosmetology Clinic Teachers, Barber Teachers Esthetics Teachers, Hair Braiding Teachers, and Nail Technology Teachers | Fee Amount | Online Payment |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| License | \$30 | Yes |
| Examination | N/A | No |
| Acceptance of Examination | \$30 | Yes |
| License Renewal | \$25 per year | Yes |
| Restoration (Cosmetologist and Barber only) | \$50 plus lapsed renewal fees | Cosmetologist and Barber |
| Endorsement | \$45 | Yes |
| Change of Name or Address | \$20 | No |
| Certification of Record | \$20 | No |

| License Type: Cosmetology Schools, Barber Schools, Esthetics Schools, Hair Braiding Schools, Nail Technology Schools | Fee Amount | Online Payment |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------|
| License | \$450 | No |
| Inspection | \$50 | No |
| Change of Ownership | \$150 | No |
| Change of Location | \$150 | No |
| Change of Name | \$20 | No |
| Renewal | \$100 per year | Yes |
| Expansion | \$50 | No |
| Approval to Teach Esthetics | \$50 | No |
| Approval to Teach Nail Technology | \$50 | No |
| Approval to Teach Hair Braiding | \$50 | No |
| Approval to Teach Barbering | \$50 | No |

| Salon Fees: | Fee Amount | Online Payment |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Registration | \$40 | Yes |
| Change of Name | \$20 | No |
| Renewal | \$20 per year | Yes |
| Reissuance Reprint | \$20 | No |
| Restoration | \$40 | No |
| Endorsement | \$45 | No |

| Continuing Education Sponsor¹ Fees: | Fee Amount | Online Payment |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Registration | \$200 | No |
| Renewal | \$100 every two years | Yes |
| Restoration | \$250 | No |

2. Obtaining Licensure under the Act in Illinois

Obtaining Licensure as a Barber

Article II, Section 2 of the Act (225 ILCS 410/2-2) addresses those criteria that applicants must demonstrate for licensure as a barber:

A person is qualified to receive a license as a barber if that person has applied in writing on forms prescribed by the Department, has paid the required fees, and:

- a. Is at least 16 years of age; and
- b. Has a certificate of graduation from a school providing secondary education, or the recognized equivalent of such a certificate, or persons who are beyond the age of compulsory school attendance; and
- c. Has graduated from a school of barbering or school of cosmetology approved by the Department, having completed a total of 1500 hours in the study of barbering extending over a period of not less than 9 months nor more than 3 years. A school of barbering may, at its discretion, consistent with the rules of the Department, accept up to 1,000 hours of cosmetology school training at a recognized cosmetology school toward the 1500 hour course requirement of barbering. Time spent in such study under the laws of another state or territory of the United States or of a foreign country or province shall be credited toward the period of study required by the provisions of this paragraph; and
- d. Has passed an examination caused to be conducted by the Department or its designated testing service to determine fitness to receive a license as a barber; and
- e. Has met all other requirements of this Act.

Article II Section 3 of the Act (225 ILCS 410/2-3) addresses those criteria that applicants must demonstrate for licensure as a barber by a cosmetology school graduate:

A person is qualified to receive a license as a barber if that person has applied in writing on forms prescribed by the Department, has paid the required fees, and:

- a. Is at least 16 years of age; and
- b. Has a certificate of graduation from a school providing secondary education, or the recognized equivalent of such a certificate, or persons who are beyond the age of compulsory school attendance; and
- c. Has graduated from a cosmetology school approved by the Department having completed a minimum of 1500 hours in the study of cosmetology; and
- d. Has graduated from a school of barbering or cosmetology approved by the Department having completed a minimum of 500 additional hours in the study of barbering extending over a period of no less than 3 months nor more than one year. Time spent in such study under the laws of another state or territory of the United States or of a foreign country or province shall be credited toward the period of study required by the provisions of this paragraph; and
- e. Has passed an examination caused to be conducted by the Department, or its designated testing service, to determine fitness to receive a license as a barber; and
- f. Has met any other requirements set forth in this Act.

Obtaining Licensure as a Barber Teacher

Article II, Section 4 of the Act (225 ILCS 410/2-4) addresses those criteria that applicants must demonstrate for licensure as a barber teacher:

A person is qualified to receive a license as a barber teacher if that person files an application on forms provided by the Department, pays the required fee, and:

- a. Is at least 18 years of age;
- b. Has graduated from high school or its equivalent;
- c. Has a current license as a barber or cosmetologist;
- d. Has graduated from a barber school or school of cosmetology approved by the Department having:
 1. completed a total of 500 hours in barber teacher training extending over a period of not less than 3 months nor more than 2 years and has had 3 years of practical experience as a licensed barber;
 2. completed a total of 1,000 hours of barber teacher training extending over a period of not less than 6 months nor more than 2 years; or
 3. completed the cosmetology teacher training as specified in paragraph (4) of subsection (a) of Section 3-4 of this Act and completed a supplemental barbering course as established by rule;
- e. Has passed an examination authorized by the Department to determine fitness to receive a license as a barber teacher or a cosmetology teacher; and
- f. Has met any other requirements set forth in this Act.

Examination for Licensure as a Barber or Barber Teacher

Article II, Section 7 of Act (225 ILCS 410/2-7) establishes the examination process for applicants of licensure as barbers and barber teachers:

The Department shall hold examinations of applicants for licensure as barbers and teachers of barbering at such times and places as it may determine. Upon request, the examinations shall be administered in Spanish.

Each applicant shall be given a written examination testing both theoretical and

practical knowledge of the following subjects insofar as they are related and applicable to the practice of barber science and art: (1) anatomy, (2) physiology, (3) skin diseases, (4) hygiene and sanitation, (5) barber history, (6) this Act and the rules for the administration of this Act, (7) hair cutting and styling, (8) shaving, shampooing, and permanent waving, (9) massaging, (10) bleaching, tinting, and coloring, and (11) implements.

The examination of applicants for licensure as a barber teacher shall include: (a) practice of barbering and styling, (b) theory of barbering, (c) methods of teaching, and (d) school management.

An applicant for licensure as a barber who has completed 1,200 hours in the study of barbering may take the examination. If an applicant for licensure as a barber fails to pass 3 examinations conducted by the Department, the applicant shall, before taking a subsequent examination, furnish evidence of not less than 250 hours of additional study of barbering in an approved school of barbering or cosmetology since the applicant last took the examination. If an applicant for licensure as a barber teacher fails to pass 3 examinations conducted by the Department, the applicant shall, before taking a subsequent examination, furnish evidence of not less than 80 hours of additional study in teaching methodology and educational psychology in an approved school of barbering or cosmetology since the applicant last took the examination. An applicant who fails to pass the fourth examination shall not again be admitted to an examination unless: (i) in the case of an applicant for licensure as a barber, the applicant again takes and completes a program of 1,500 hours in the study of barbering in an approved school of barbering or cosmetology extending over a period that commences after the applicant fails to pass the fourth examination and that is not less than 8 months nor more than 7 consecutive years in duration; or (ii) in the case of an applicant for licensure as a barber teacher, the applicant again takes and completes a program of 1,000 hours of teacher training in an approved school of barbering or cosmetology, except that if the applicant had 2 years of practical experience as a licensed barber within the 5 years preceding the initial examination taken by the applicant, the applicant must again take and complete a program of 500 hours of teacher training in an approved school of barbering or cosmetology. The requirements for remedial training set forth in this Section may be waived in whole or in part by the Department upon proof to the Department that the applicant has demonstrated competence to again sit for the examination. The Department shall adopt rules establishing standards by which this determination shall be made. The rules for establishing standards can be found on the IDFPR website ([IDFPR Rules](#)).

This Act does not prohibit the practice as a barber or barber teacher by one who has applied in writing to the Department, in form and substance satisfactory to the Department, for a license and has complied with all the provisions of this Act in order to qualify for a license except the passing of an examination, until: (a) the expiration of 6 months after the filing of such written application, or (b) the decision of the Department that the applicant has failed to pass an examination within 6 months or failed without an approved excuse to take an examination conducted within 6 months by the Department, or (c) the withdrawal of the application.

Article III, Section 2 of the Act (225 ILCS 410/3-2) addresses those criteria that applicants must demonstrate for licensure as a cosmetologist:

A person is qualified to receive a license as a cosmetologist if that person has applied in writing on forms prescribed by the Department, has paid the required fees, and:

- a. Is at least 16 years of age; and
- b. Is beyond the age of compulsory school attendance or has received a certificate of graduation from a school providing secondary education, or the recognized equivalent of that certificate; and
- c. Has graduated from a school of cosmetology approved by the Department, having completed a program of 1,500 hours in the study of cosmetology extending over a period of not less than 8 months nor more than 7 consecutive years. A school of cosmetology may, at its discretion, consistent with the rules of the Department, accept up to 1,000 hours of barber school training at a recognized barber school toward the 1,500 hour program requirement of cosmetology. Time spent in such study under the laws of another state or territory of the United States or of a foreign country or province shall be credited toward the period of study required by the provisions of this paragraph; and
- d. Has passed an examination authorized by the Department to determine eligibility to receive a license as a cosmetologist; and
- e. Has met any other requirements of this Act.

Article III, Section 3 of the Act (225 ILCS 410/3-3) addresses those criteria that applicants must demonstrate for licensure as a cosmetologist by a barber school graduate:

A person is qualified to receive a license as a cosmetologist if that person has filed an application on forms provided by the Department, has paid the required fees, and:

- a. Is at least 16 years of age; and
- b. Has a certificate of graduation from a school providing secondary education, or the recognized equivalent of such a certificate, or is beyond the age of compulsory school attendance; and
- c. Has graduated from a school of barbering approved by the Department having completed 1500 hours in the study of barbering, and a minimum of 500 additional hours in the study of cosmetology extending over a period of no less than 3 months nor more than one year. Time spent in such study under the laws of another state or territory of the United States or of a foreign country or province shall be credited toward the period of study required by the provisions of this paragraph; and
- d. Has passed an examination authorized by the Department to determine fitness to receive a license as a cosmetologist; and
- e. Has met any other requirements of this Act.

Obtaining Licensure as a Cosmetology Teacher

Article III, Section 4 of the Act (225 ILCS 410/3-4) addresses those criteria that applicants must demonstrate for licensure as a cosmetology teacher:

A person is qualified to receive license as a cosmetology teacher if that person has applied in writing on forms provided by the Department, has paid the required fees, and:

- a. is at least 18 years of age;
- b. has graduated from high school or its equivalent;

- c. has a current license as a cosmetologist;
- d. has either: (i) completed a program of 500 hours of teacher training in a licensed school of cosmetology and had 2 years of practical experience as a licensed cosmetologist within 5 years preceding the examination; (ii) completed a program of 1,000 hours of teacher training in a licensed school of cosmetology; or (iii) completed the barber teacher training as specified in subsection (d) of Section 2-4 of this Act and completed a supplemental cosmetology course as established by rule;
- e. has passed an examination authorized by the Department to determine eligibility to receive a license as a cosmetology teacher or barber teacher; and
- f. has met any other requirements of this Act.

Obtaining Licensure as a Cosmetology Clinic Teacher

Article III, Section 4 of the Act (225 ILCS 410/3-4) addresses those criteria that applicants must demonstrate for licensure as a cosmetology clinic teacher:

A person is qualified to receive a license as a cosmetology clinic teacher if he or she has applied in writing on forms provided by the Department, has paid the required fees, and:

- a. is at least 18 years of age;
- b. has graduated from high school or its equivalent;
- c. has a current license as a cosmetologist;
- d. has (i) completed a program of 250 hours of clinic teacher training in a licensed school of cosmetology or (ii) within 5 years preceding the examination, has obtained a minimum of 2 years of practical experience working at least 30 full-time hours per week as a licensed cosmetologist and has completed an instructor's institute of 20 hours, as prescribed by the Department, prior to submitting an application for examination;
- e. has passed an examination authorized by the Department to determine eligibility to receive a license as a cosmetology teacher; and
- f. has met any other requirements of this Act.

As of January 1, 2009, the Department no longer issues new cosmetology clinic teacher licenses.

Examination for Licensure as Cosmetologists and Cosmetology Teachers

Article III, Section 6 of the Act (225 ILCS 410/3-6) establishes the examination process for applicants of licensure as cosmetologists and cosmetology teachers:

The Department shall authorize examinations of applicants for licensure as cosmetologists and teachers of cosmetology at the times and places it may determine. The Department may provide by rule for the administration of the examination prior to the completion of the applicant's program of training as required in Section 3-2, 3-3, or 3-4. Notwithstanding Section 3-2, 3-3, or 3-4, an applicant for licensure as a cosmetologist who has completed 1,200 hours in the study of cosmetology may take the examination. If an applicant for licensure as a cosmetologist fails to pass 3 examinations conducted by the Department, the applicant shall, before taking a subsequent examination, furnish evidence of not less than 250 hours of additional study of cosmetology in an approved school of cosmetology since the applicant last took the examination. If an applicant for licensure as a cosmetology teacher fails to pass 3 examinations conducted by the Department, the applicant shall, before taking a subsequent examination, furnish evidence of not less than 80 hours of additional study in teaching methodology and educational psychology in an approved school of cosmetology since

the applicant last took the examination. An applicant who fails to pass the fourth examination shall not again be admitted to an examination unless: (i) in the case of an applicant for licensure as a cosmetologist, the applicant again takes and completes a program of 1500 hours in the study of cosmetology in an approved school of cosmetology extending over a period that commences after the applicant fails to pass the fourth examination and that is not less than 8 months nor more than 7 consecutive years in duration; (ii) in the case of an applicant for licensure as a cosmetology teacher, the applicant again takes and completes a program of 1000 hours of teacher training in an approved school of cosmetology, except that if the applicant had 2 years of practical experience as a licensed cosmetologist within the 5 years preceding the initial examination taken by the applicant, the applicant must again take and complete a program of 500 hours of teacher training in an approved school of cosmetology, esthetics, or nail technology; or (iii) in the case of an applicant for licensure as a cosmetology clinic teacher, the applicant again takes and completes a program of 250 hours of clinic teacher training in a licensed school of cosmetology or an instructor's institute of 20 hours. The requirements for remedial training set forth in this Section may be waived in whole or in part by the Department upon proof to the Department that the applicant has demonstrated competence to again sit for the examination. The Department shall adopt rules establishing the standards by which this determination shall be made. Each cosmetology applicant shall be given a written examination testing both theoretical and practical knowledge, which shall include, but not be limited to, questions that determine the applicant's knowledge of product chemistry, sanitary rules, sanitary procedures, chemical service procedures, hazardous chemicals and exposure minimization, knowledge of the anatomy of the skin, scalp, hair, and nails as they relate to applicable services under this Act and labor and compensation laws.

The examination of applicants for licensure as a cosmetology, esthetics, or nail technology teacher may include all of the elements of the exam for licensure as a cosmetologist, esthetician, or nail technician and also include teaching methodology, classroom management, record keeping, and any other related subjects that the Department in its discretion may deem necessary to insure competent performance.

This Act does not prohibit the practice of cosmetology by one who has applied in writing to the Department, in form and substance satisfactory to the Department, for a license as a cosmetologist, or the teaching of cosmetology by one who has applied in writing to the Department, in form and substance satisfactory to the Department, for a license as a cosmetology teacher or cosmetology clinic teacher, if the person has complied with all the provisions of this Act in order to qualify for a license, except the passing of an examination to be eligible to receive a license, until: (a) the expiration of 6 months after the filing of the written application, (b) the decision of the Department that the applicant has failed to pass an examination within 6 months or failed without an approved excuse to take an examination conducted within 6 months by the Department, or (c) the withdrawal of the application.

Obtaining Licensure as an Esthetician

Article IIIA, Section 2 of the Act (225 ILCS 410/3A-2) addresses those criteria that applicants must demonstrate for licensure as an esthetician:

A person is qualified to receive a license as a licensed esthetician if that person has applied in writing on forms provided by the Department, paid any required fees, and:

- a. Is at least 16 years of age; and

- b. Has a certificate of graduation from a school providing secondary education, or the recognized equivalent of such a certificate, or persons who are beyond the age of compulsory school attendance; and
- c. Has graduated from a school of cosmetology or esthetics approved by the Department, having completed a program of 750 hours in the study of esthetics extending over a period of not less than 18 weeks nor more than 4 consecutive years. Time spent in such study under the laws of another state or territory of the United States or of a foreign country or province shall be credited toward the period of study required by the provisions of this paragraph; and
- d. Has passed an examination authorized by the Department to determine fitness to receive a license as a licensed esthetician; and
- e. Has met any other requirements of this Act and rules.

Obtaining Licensure as a Teacher of Esthetics

Article IIIA, Section 3 of the Act (225 ILCS 410/3A-3) addresses those criteria that applicants must demonstrate for licensure as an esthetics teacher:

A person is qualified to receive a license as an esthetics teacher if that person has applied in writing on forms provided by the Department, paid any required fees, and:

- a. Is at least 16 years of age; and
- b. has graduated from high school or its equivalent;
- c. has a current license as a licensed cosmetologist or esthetician;
- d. has either: (i) completed a program of 500 hours of teacher training in a licensed school of cosmetology or a licensed esthetics school and had 2 years of practical experience as a licensed cosmetologist or esthetician within 5 years preceding the examination; or (ii) completed a program of 750 hours of teacher training in a licensed school of cosmetology approved by the Department to teach esthetics or a licensed esthetics school;
- e. has passed an examination authorized by the Department to determine eligibility to receive a license as a licensed cosmetology or esthetics teacher;
- f. has met any other requirements as required by this Act.

Examination for Licensure as Esthetician and Teacher of Esthetics

Article IIIA, Section 5 of the Act (225 ILCS 410/3A-6) establishes the examination process for applicants of licensure as estheticians and esthetician teachers:

The Department shall authorize examinations of applicants for a license as an esthetician or teacher of esthetics at such times and places as it may determine. The Department shall authorize no fewer than 4 examinations for a license as an esthetician or a teacher of esthetics in a calendar year. An applicant for licensure as an esthetician who has completed 600 hours in the study of esthetics may take the examination.

If an applicant neglects, fails without an approved excuse, or refuses to take the next available examination offered for licensure under this Act, the fee paid by the applicant shall be forfeited to the Department and the application denied. If an applicant fails to pass an examination for licensure under this Act within 3 years after filing his or her application, the application shall be denied. However, such applicant may thereafter make a new application for examination, accompanied by the required fee, if he or she meets the requirements in effect at the time of reapplication. If an applicant for licensure as an esthetician is unsuccessful at 3

examinations conducted by the Department, the applicant shall, before taking a subsequent examination, furnish evidence of not less than 125 hours of additional study of esthetics in an approved school of cosmetology or esthetics since the applicant last took the examination. If an applicant for licensure as an esthetics teacher is unsuccessful at 3 examinations conducted by the Department, the applicant shall, before taking a subsequent examination, furnish evidence of not less than 80 hours of additional study in teaching methodology and educational psychology in a licensed school of cosmetology or esthetics since the applicant last took the examination. An applicant who fails to pass a fourth examination shall not again be admitted to an examination unless (i) in the case of an applicant for licensure as an esthetician, the applicant shall again take and complete a program of 750 hours in the study of esthetics in a licensed school of cosmetology approved to teach esthetics or a school of esthetics, extending over a period that commences after the applicant fails to pass the fourth examination and that is not less than 18 weeks nor more than 4 consecutive years in duration; or (ii) in the case of an applicant for a license as an esthetics teacher, the applicant shall again take and complete a program of 750 hours of teacher training in a school of cosmetology approved to teach esthetics or a school of esthetics, except that if the applicant had 2 years of practical experience as a licensed cosmetologist or esthetician within 5 years preceding the initial examination taken by the applicant, the applicant must again take and complete a program of 500 hours of teacher training in licensed cosmetology or a licensed esthetics school.

Each applicant shall be given a written examination testing both theoretical and practical knowledge which shall include, but not be limited to, questions that determine the applicant's knowledge, as provided by rule.

The examination of applicants for licensure as an esthetics teacher may include: (1) teaching methodology; (2) classroom management; and (3) record keeping and any other subjects that the Department may deem necessary to insure competent performance.

This Act does not prohibit the practice of esthetics by one who has applied in writing to the Department, in form and substance satisfactory to the Department, for a license as an esthetician or an esthetics teacher and has complied with all the provisions of this Act in order to qualify for a license, except the passing of an examination to be eligible to receive such license certificate, until: (i) the expiration of 6 months after the filing of such written application, or (ii) the decision of the Department that the applicant has failed to pass an examination within 6 months or failed without an approved excuse to take an examination conducted within 6 months by the Department, or (iii) the withdrawal of the application.

Obtaining Licensure as a Nail Technician

Article IIIC, Section 2 of the (225 ILCS 410/3C-2) addresses those criteria that applicants must demonstrate for licensure as a nail technician:

A person is qualified to receive a license as a nail technician if that person applies in writing on forms provided by the Department, pays the required fee, and:

- a. Is at least 16 years of age;
- b. Is beyond the age of compulsory school attendance or has a certificate of graduation from a school providing secondary education or the recognized equivalent of that certificate;
- c. Has graduated from a school of cosmetology or school of nail technology approved by the Department, having completed a program of 350 hours in the study of nail

- technology extending over a period of not less than 8 weeks nor more than 2 consecutive years;
- d. Has passed an examination authorized by the Department to determine eligibility to receive a license as a nail technician; and
- e. Has met any other requirements of this Act.

Obtaining Licensure as a Teacher of Nail Technology

Article IIIC, Section 3 of the (225 ILCS 410/3C-3) addresses those criteria that applicants must demonstrate for licensure as a nail technology teacher:

A person is qualified to receive a license as a nail technology teacher if that person has filed an application on forms provided by the Department, paid the required fee, and:

- a. is at least 18 years of age;
- b. has graduated from high school or its equivalent;
- c. has a current license as a cosmetologist or nail technician;
- d. has either: (1) completed a program of 500 hours of teacher training in a licensed school of nail technology or cosmetology, and had 2 years of practical experience as a nail technician; or (2) has completed a program of 625 hours of teacher training in a licensed school of cosmetology approved to teach nail technology or school of nail technology; and
- e. who has passed an examination authorized by the Department to determine eligibility to receive a license as a cosmetology or nail technology teacher.

Examination for Licensure as Nail Technicians and Teachers of Nail Technology

Article IIIC, Section 7 of the Act (225 ILCS 410/3C-7) establishes the examination process for applicants of licensure as nail technicians and teachers of nail technology:

The Department shall authorize examinations of applicants for licenses as nail technicians and teachers of nail technology at the times and places as it may determine. An applicant for licensure as a nail technician who has completed 280 hours in the study of nail technology may take the examination.

The Department shall authorize not less than 4 examinations for licenses as nail technicians, and nail technology teachers in a calendar year.

If an applicant neglects, fails without an approved excuse, or refuses to take the next available examination offered for licensure under this Act, the fee paid by the applicant shall be forfeited to the Department and the application denied. If an applicant fails to pass an examination for licensure under this Act within 3 years after filing an application, the application shall be denied. Nevertheless, the applicant may thereafter make a new application for examination, accompanied by the required fee, if he or she meets the requirements in effect at the time of reapplication. If an applicant for licensure as a nail technician or nail technology teacher is unsuccessful at 3 examinations conducted by the Department, the applicant shall, before taking a subsequent examination, furnish evidence of successfully completing (i) for a nail technician, not less than 60 hours of additional study of nail technology in a licensed school of cosmetology approved to teach nail technology or nail technology and (ii) for a nail technology teacher, not less than 80 hours of additional study in teaching methodology and educational psychology in an approved school of cosmetology or nail technology since the applicant last took the examination.

An applicant who fails the fourth examination shall not again be admitted to an examination unless: (i) in the case of an applicant for a license as a nail technician, the applicant again takes and completes a total of 350 hours in the study of nail technology in an approved school of cosmetology or nail technology extending over a period that commences after the applicant fails to pass the fourth examination and that is not less than 8 weeks nor more than 2 consecutive years in duration; or (ii) in the case of an applicant for licensure as a nail technology teacher, the applicant again takes and completes a program of 625 hours of teacher training in a licensed school of cosmetology, or nail technology, except that if the applicant had 2 years of practical experience as a licensed nail technician within 5 years preceding the initial examination taken by the applicant, the applicant must again take and complete a program of 500 hours of teacher training in a licensed school of cosmetology approved to teach nail technology, or a licensed school of nail technology.

Each applicant for licensure as a nail technician shall be given a written examination testing both theoretical and practical knowledge, which shall include, but not be limited to, questions that determine the applicant's knowledge of product chemistry, sanitary rules, sanitary procedures, hazardous chemicals and exposure minimization, this Act, and labor and compensation laws.

The examination for licensure as a nail technology teacher may include knowledge of the subject matter, teaching methodology, classroom management, record keeping, and any other subjects that the Department in its discretion may deem necessary to insure competent performance.

This Act does not prohibit the practice of nail technology by a person who has applied in writing to the Department, in form and substance satisfactory to the Department, for a license as a nail technician, or the teaching of nail technology by one who has applied in writing to the Department, in form and substance satisfactory to the Department, for a license as a nail technology teacher, if the person has complied with all the provisions of this Act in order to qualify for a license, except the passing of an examination to be eligible to receive a license, until: (a) the expiration of 6 months after the filing of the written application, or (b) the decision of the Department that the applicant has failed to pass an examination within 6 months or failed without an approved excuse to take an examination conducted within 6 months by the Department, or (c) the withdrawal of the application.

Obtaining Licensure as a Hair Braider

Article III E, Section 2 of the Act (225 ILCS 410/3E-2) addresses those criteria that applicants must demonstrate for licensure as a hair braider:

A person is qualified to receive a license as a hair braider if he or she has filed an application on forms provided by the Department, paid the required fees, and meets the following qualifications:

- a. Is at least 16 years of age;
- b. Is beyond the age of compulsory school attendance or has received a certificate of graduation from a school providing secondary education, or the recognized equivalent of that certificate; and
- c. Has completed a program consisting of a minimum of 300 clock hours or a 10 credit hour equivalency of instruction, as defined by rule, in a licensed cosmetology school teaching a hair braiding curriculum or in a licensed hair braiding school as follows:

1. Basic training consisting of 35 hours of classroom instruction in general theory, practical application, and technical application in the following subject areas: history of hair braiding, personal hygiene and public health, professional ethics, disinfection and sanitation, bacteriology, disorders and diseases of the hair and scalp, OSHA standards relating to material safety data sheets (MSDS) on chemicals, hair analysis and scalp care, and technical procedures;
2. Related concepts consisting of 35 hours of classroom instruction in the following subject areas: Braid removal and scalp care; basic styling knowledge; tools and equipment; growth patterns, styles and sectioning; client consultation and face shapes; and client education, pre-care, post-care, home care and follow-up services;
3. Practices and procedures consisting of 200 hours of instruction, which shall be a combination of classroom instruction and clinical practical application, in the following subject areas: single braids with and without extensions; cornrows with and without extensions; twists and knots; multiple strands; hair locking; weaving/sewn-in; other procedures as they relate to hair-braiding; and product knowledge as it relates to hair braiding; and
4. Business practices consisting of 30 hours of classroom instruction in the following subject areas: Illinois Barber, Cosmetology, Esthetics, Hair Braiding, and Nail Technology Act of 1985 and Rules; salon management; human relations and salesmanship; and Workers' Compensation Act.

Obtaining Licensure as a Teacher of Hair Braiding

Article III E, Section 3 of the Act (225 ILCS 410/3E-3) addresses those criteria that applicants must demonstrate for licensure as a hair braiding teacher:

A hair braiding teacher license shall be made available by the Department. The qualifications for a hair braiding teacher license shall be provided by rule, and shall include at least 600 clock hours or a 20 credit hour equivalency in relevant teaching methods and curriculum content, or at least 500 clock hours of hair braiding teacher training for an individual who is able to establish that he or she has had at least 2 years of practical experience. The rules for establishing standards can be found on the IDFPR website ([IDFPR Rules](#)).

Obtaining Licensure as a Barber, Cosmetology, Esthetics, Hair Braiding, and Nail Technology School

Article III B, Section 10 of the Act (225 ILCS 410/3B-10) addresses those criteria that applicants must demonstrate for licensure as a school under the Act:

An applicant shall apply to the Department on forms provided by the Department, pay the required fees, and comply with the following requirements:

1. The applicant must submit to the Department for approval:
 - a. A floor plan, drawn to a scale specified on the floor plan, showing every detail of the proposed school; and
 - b. A lease commitment or proof of ownership for the location of the proposed school; a lease commitment must provide for execution of the lease upon the Department's approval of the school's application and the lease must be

for a period of at least one year.

2. An application to own or operate a school shall include the following:
 - a. If the owner is a corporation, a copy of the Articles of Incorporation or, if the owner is a limited liability company, a copy of the articles of organization;
 - b. If the owner is a partnership, a listing of all partners and their current addresses;
 - c. If the applicant is an owner, a completed financial statement showing the owner's ability to operate the school for at least 3 months;
 - d. A copy of the official enrollment agreement or student contract to be used by the school, which shall be consistent with the requirements of this Act and rules;
 - e. A listing of all teachers who will be in the school's employ, including their teacher license numbers;
 - f. A copy of the curricula that will be followed;
 - g. The names, addresses, and current status of all schools in which the applicant has previously owned any interest, and a declaration as to whether any of these schools were ever denied accreditation or licensing or lost accreditation or licensing from any governmental body or accrediting agency;
 - h. Each application for a certificate of approval shall be signed and certified under oath by the school's chief managing employee and also by its individual owner or owners; if the applicant is a partnership or a corporation, then the application shall be signed and certified under oath by the school's chief managing employee and also by each member of the partnership or each officer of the corporation, as the case may be;
 - i. A copy of the school's official transcript; and
 - j. The required fee.
3. Each application for a license to operate a school shall also contain the following commitments:
 - a. To conduct the school in accordance with this Act and the standards, and rules from time to time adopted under this Act and to meet standards and requirements at least as stringent as those required by Part H of the Federal Higher Education Act of 1965.
 - b. To permit the Department to inspect the school or classes thereof from time to time with or without notice; and to make available to the Department, at any time when required to do so, information including financial information pertaining to the activities of the school required for the administration of this Act and the standards and rules adopted under this Act;
 - c. To utilize only advertising and solicitation which is free from misrepresentation, deception, fraud, or other misleading or unfair trade practices;
 - d. To screen applicants to the school prior to enrollment pursuant to the requirements of the school's regional or national accrediting agency, if any, and to maintain any and all records of such screening. If the course of instruction is offered in a language other than English, the screening shall also be performed in that language;
 - e. To post in a conspicuous place a statement, developed by the Department,

of student's rights provided under this Act.

4. The applicant shall establish to the satisfaction of the Department that the owner possesses sufficient liquid assets to meet the prospective expenses of the school for a period of 3 months. In the discretion of the Department, additional proof of financial ability may be required.
5. The applicant shall comply with all rules of the Department determining the necessary curriculum and equipment required for the conduct of the school.
6. The applicant must demonstrate employment of a sufficient number of qualified teachers who are holders of a current license issued by the Department.
7. A final inspection of the barber, cosmetology, esthetics, hair braiding, or nail technology school shall be made by the Department before the school may commence classes.
8. A written inspection report must be made by the State Fire Marshal or a local fire authority approving the use of the proposed premises as a barber, cosmetology, esthetics, hair braiding, or nail technology school.

Registration as a Barber, Cosmetology, Esthetics, Hair Braiding, and Nail Technology Salon or Shop
Article IIID, Section 5 of the Act (225 ILCS 410/3D-5) addresses those criteria that applicants must demonstrate for registration as a shop or salon under the Act:

No person, firm, partnership, limited liability company, or corporation shall own or operate a cosmetology, esthetics, hair braiding, nail technology salon, or barber shop or employ, rent space to, or independently contract with any licensee under this Act without applying on forms provided by the Department for a certificate of registration.

The application for a certificate of registration under this Section shall set forth the name, address, and telephone number of the proposed cosmetology, esthetics, hair braiding, nail technology salon, or barber shop; the name, address, and telephone number of the person, firm, partnership, or corporation that is to own or operate the salon or shop; and, if the salon or shop is to be owned or operated by an entity other than an individual, the name, address, and telephone number of the managing partner or the chief executive officer of the corporation or other entity that owns or operates the salon or shop.

The Department shall be notified by the owner or operator of a salon or shop that is moved to a new location. If there is a change in the ownership or operation of a salon or shop, the new owner or operator shall report that change to the Department along with completion of any additional requirements set forth by rule ([IDFPR Rules](#)).

If a person, firm, partnership, limited liability company, or corporation owns or operates more than one shop or salon, a separate certificate of registration must be obtained for each salon or shop.

A certificate of registration granted under this Section may be revoked in accordance with the provisions of Article IV and the holder of the certificate may be otherwise disciplined by the Department in accordance with rules adopted under this Act.

The Department may promulgate rules to establish additional requirements for owning or operating a salon or shop.

The requirement of a certificate of registration as set forth in this Section shall also apply to any person, firm, partnership, limited liability company, or corporation providing barbering, cosmetology, esthetics, hair braiding, or nail technology services at any location not owned or rented by such person, firm, partnership, limited liability company, or corporation for these purposes or from a mobile shop or salon. Notwithstanding any provision of this Section, applicants for a certificate of registration under this subsection (g) shall report in its application the address and telephone number of its office and shall not be required to report the location where services are or will be rendered. Nothing in this subsection (g) shall apply to a sole proprietor who has no employees or contractors and is not operating a mobile shop or salon.

3. Equity Concerns

IDFPR acknowledges some equity barriers may impact individuals entering these regulated fields. Financial challenges, like the cost to obtain qualifications, can limit those seeking to enter the field. For example, the average cost of completing a cosmetology program is \$16,500. Language barriers also impact potential entrants into the field. Barber and barber teacher examinations are offered only in English and Spanish; cosmetologist and cosmetologist teacher examinations are offered only in English, Spanish, and Chinese; and esthetician, esthetician teacher, nail technician, and nail technician teacher examinations are offered only in English. People who speak English as a second language may have added difficulty in entering these regulated professions. Further study and coordination with industry groups and stakeholders is recommended to address barriers to these regulated professions.

4. Agency recommendations to change the statute

IDFPR recommends technical clean-up including that the Act be updated where necessary to reflect procedural modernizations applicable to various professional acts in Illinois, such as providing notice through email. In addition, the Act should be updated to use gender-neutral terms.

5. Agency efforts to comply with enabling laws

The Department indicates that staffing challenges result in delays in application processing and required physical site inspections ([Section 1175.305](#) of the Act).

6. Recent bills introduced by the General Assembly

In 2024, IDFPR proposed amendments, introduced as HB4570 of the 103rd General Assembly, to reduce the number of duplicative classes that licensed teachers need to take to expand their teaching license. HB4570 was signed into law as Public Act 103-0675 with an effective date of January 1, 2025.

HB3356, proposed the 104th General Assembly, strikes existing references to hair braiding in the Barber, Cosmetology, Esthetics, Hair Braiding, and Nail Technology Act of 1985 and adds a provision specifically exempting hair braiders from licensure.

7. Stakeholder Feedback and Protocols for Licensure

IDFPR does not report having received comments from professional organizations or other interested parties regarding the impact of IDFPR’s rules or its administrative decisions related to enforcement of the licensing program.

8. Public Outreach

IDFPR provides multiple avenues for members of the public to contact the Department with comments or concerns about the programs it regulates or the Department’s rules governing its programs. Although IDFPR conducts public outreach efforts through social media and other external-facing means, IDFPR is unaware of any ongoing or recent full-scale media or advertising campaigns solely dedicated to these professions. The public may use the links provided below to “Contact us” (IDFPR) or file a complaint with the Division.

<https://idfpr.illinois.gov/contact/idfprcontact.html>

<https://idfpr.illinois.gov/admin/dpr/dprcomplaint.html>

9. Industry Standards

IDFPR states that the personal qualifications required for these professions are consistent with industry standards. Most states have the same or substantially similar requirements. However, a few states have or are considering lowering educational requirements.

10. Public Complaint Resolution

The public may file a complaint with the Complaint Intake Unit of IDFPR through the following link: <https://idfpr.illinois.gov/admin/dpr/dprcomplaint.html>. IDFPR does not separate complaints by source. The number of complaints received in the past five years is outlined in the table below. IDFPR states that the estimated time to resolve a complaint under this Act is approximately 5-7 months.

| Fiscal Year | Number of Complaints |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| FY20 | 551 |
| FY21 | 502 |
| FY22 | 563 |
| FY23 | 595 |
| FY24 | 685 |

11. Disciplinary Action

The Act provides for disciplinary action against licensees if problems arise in their practice, during the provision of their services, or for other specified events. In particular, the Act provides that “[t]he Department may refuse to issue or renew, and may suspend, revoke, place on probation, reprimand or take any other disciplinary or non-disciplinary action as the Department may deem proper, including civil penalties not to exceed \$500 for each violation, with regard to any license, [for any one or combination of twenty-one identified acts].” 225 ILCS 410/4-7.

12. Conclusion

The Act regulates the practices of barbering, cosmetology, esthetics, hair braiding, and nail technology in the State of Illinois. The absence of licensing criteria for these regulated professions would pose a significant and direct harm to the safety and welfare of the public. The lack of regulation would eliminate the professional standards to which individuals who provide sanitary grooming and beauty services to the public are held.

Current evidence does not suggest that the imposition of the State's regulatory standards is such a burden as to outweigh the benefits to the health, safety, and welfare of the people of Illinois in continuing the licensure and regulation of these professions. Consequently, the Act is necessary and appropriate to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the people of Illinois.

The Act should be continued, with modernizations to the act, to promote and enhance the safety and welfare of the public, without burdening licensees or commerce.