



State of Louisiana

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Louisiana Board of Cosmetology Adds Textured Hair Section to Cosmetology Exam

Baton Rouge, LA — November 8, 2021 — The Louisiana Board of Cosmetology (BOC) moved to revise its testing requirements to promote textured hair education throughout the state of Louisiana. Textured hair includes wavy, curly and coily hair. This resolution was passed on Monday, November 1st, 2021 and goes into effect in June of 2022. In doing so, the Louisiana Board of Cosmetology set a standard to ensure that the new generation of hair stylists in Louisiana will be able to care for all clients, no matter what their hair type.

Approximately 65% of people have textured hair, and many cosmetology schools have been enhancing their curriculum for texture education. This led Edwin Neill, Chairman of the State Board of Cosmetology and president of Aveda Arts & Sciences Institute to question why the state had not yet required textured hair competency for cosmetologists to receive their license. Working with board member and cosmetology instructor Kevin Martin and BOC staff, Edwin Neill, proposed a change in the cosmetology exam to ensure competence with textured hair. The revised test will include a section on cutting textured hair.

“There are many salon horror stories about what happens when cosmetologists are not properly educated on working with textured hair. Today there are still sometimes disparities in the salon experience between people with textured-hair and those with naturally straight hair. We want to ensure that licensed cosmetologists in Louisiana are able to do all types of hair,” says Edwin Neill.

This is not the first reform undertaken by the current BOC. Last year, the board removed the ban on cosmetology licensing for the formerly incarcerated.

The Louisiana Board of Cosmetology regulates and monitors the cosmetology industry in Louisiana to maintain public health and welfare standards for the consumer public, ensures that individuals receiving licenses meet the education requirements established by the State of Louisiana and that licensed professionals maintain the highest standards while providing services to the public.