



GEORGIA • LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

2025–2026 Session Cosmetology & Barbering Bills

Georgia General Assembly • 157th Session • Updated October 1, 2026

GEORGIA 157TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY — 2025–2026 SESSION • [LEGIS.GA.GOV](https://legis.ga.gov)

What ACSP Members Need to Know

The Georgia General Assembly's 157th session has seen a mix of activity in the beauty industry space — some bills died without advancing, while others cleared committee and await a full chamber vote. The most impactful *recent* change was **SB 354**, signed by Governor Kemp in 2024, which already **exempts blow-dry styling and makeup artistry** from Georgia's cosmetology licensure requirements. For the current 2025–2026 session, **HB 684** (trichology training) and **HR 752** (a study committee on cosmetology and barbering education) both received favorable committee reports in February 2026 but have not been voted on by the full House. The sweeping **HB 1617** licensing modernization bill — which would add a hair removal technician license, raise the minimum licensing age to 17, and shorten renewal periods — was recommended by the state's Occupational Regulation Review Council but has not yet passed. **No major cosmetology or barbering legislation is confirmed enacted in 2026.**

Cosmetology Bill

Barbering Bill

Joint / Both Industries

Already Enacted

Active & Recent Legislation — October 1, 2026

SB 354 **ENACTED — Blow-Dry Styling & Makeup Artistry Exemption from Cosmetology Licensure**

Signed by Governor Kemp — May 2, 2024 · Now Georgia Law

 Introduced Jan. 12, 2024 · Passed April 4, 2024 · Signed May 2, 2024

 Senate Judiciary Committee · Bipartisan support

Already in effect as Georgia law. SB 354 amended the state's cosmetology and barbering statutes to **exempt professionals whose work is limited to shampooing, blow-dry styling, and applying cosmetics** from the cosmetology licensure requirement. Before this law, blow-dry stylists needed up to 1,140 hours of cosmetology school training; makeup artists needed up to 1,000 hours. Key impacts:

- Unlicensed blow-dry stylists and makeup artists may legally practice in Georgia
- Establishments offering *only* these exempt services no longer need a cosmetology shop license
- Georgia joins 13+ states exempting makeup artistry and 6+ states exempting blow-dry styling from licensure
- Licensed cosmetologists and their shops are unaffected — this is an exemption, not a reduction in existing license requirements

 **THIS IS CURRENT LAW** — Signed by Governor Kemp on May 2, 2024. If you offer blow-dry or makeup services alongside licensed cosmetology services, your shop operations remain unchanged.

 [View Signed Legislation](#) ↗

HB 684 **WATCH — Trichology Training Added to Cosmetology & Barber School Curriculum**

House Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute — Feb. 18, 2026 · Awaiting House Floor Vote

 Introduced Feb. 28, 2025 · Committee substitute approved Feb. 18, 2026

 Reps. Rhonda Taylor, Carolyn Hugley, Kimberly Alexander, Al Williams, El-Mahdi Holly

Would require cosmetology and barbering schools to incorporate **trichology — the science of the hair and scalp** — into existing curriculum. Key details:

- Mandates **30 hours of trichology instruction** infused into the existing 1,500-hour cosmetology and barber programs (no additional total hours required)
- Requires instructors teaching trichology to complete a **50-hour trichology certification**
- Authorizes cosmetology, barbering, and hair design schools to formally offer trichology courses
- The Georgia State Board of Cosmetology and Barbers reviewed and supported the curriculum before committee approval

The House Regulated Industries Committee approved a substitute version on February 18, 2026, but the bill has not received a full House floor vote. The session may have adjourned before it advanced further.

 **NOT YET LAW — Cleared committee in February 2026 but has not passed the full House or Senate. Monitor legis.ga.gov for any floor vote.**

 [View Bill Status](#) ↗

HR 752 **Joint Study Committee on Cosmetology & Barbering Education**

House Committee Favorably Reported by Substitute — Feb. 24, 2026

 Introduced March 27, 2025 · Committee substitute reported Feb. 24, 2026

 Reps. Imani Barnes (D), Matt Reeves (R), Lydia Glaize (D), Rhonda Burnough (D), Billy Mitchell (D), Kim Schofield (D)

A bipartisan House Resolution that would create a **Joint Study Committee on Cosmetology and Barbering Education** to examine the state's licensing framework, educational requirements, and industry needs. Study committees research issues, hold hearings, and produce reports with recommendations for future legislation — they do not enact law themselves. This resolution received a favorable substitute from committee in February 2026, signaling legislative interest in a formal, structured review of cosmetology and barbering education requirements in Georgia.

 **If adopted, this committee's findings could shape the next round of Georgia cosmetology legislation. ACSP members should engage with any committee hearings and submit testimony.**

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HB 1617 **Cosmetology & Barbering Licensing Overhaul — New Hair Removal License, Age Requirement & Renewal Period**

GORRC Review Complete — Unanimously Recommended · Awaiting Legislative Action

 Referred to Georgia Occupational Regulation Review Council (GORRC) · Recommendation issued

 GORRC recommendation · Legislature has not yet passed the bill

A comprehensive modernization bill that would repeal and replace Chapter 10 of Georgia's occupational licensing statute governing barbers and cosmetologists. The GORRC unanimously recommended its passage. Key proposed changes:

- **New Hair Removal Technician license** — 300-hour school curriculum or 600 apprenticeship hours required; addresses unregulated waxing, threading, and electrolysis
- **Minimum age raised to 17** for all professions including barbering (currently 16 for barbers); board cited concern about high school dropout rates
- **License renewal period shortened** from 4 years to 2 years for all licensees
- **Expanded definitions** — increases statutory definitions from 18 to 43, clarifying scope of practice language
- **Military expedited endorsement** — active and discharged military members with out-of-state licenses get a faster pathway to Georgia licensure

Despite the GORRC's unanimous recommendation, HB 1617 has not been confirmed as passed by the General Assembly. The bill's full legislative status is pending verification.

 **ACSP should monitor: the 2-year renewal period change and new hair removal technician license are the provisions most likely to affect members' business operations and competitive landscape.**

 [View Bill at legis.ga.gov](#) ↗

HB 867 **Beauty School Student Grant Program — Tuition Assistance for Cosmetology, Esthetics & Nail Programs**

Died in Committee — House Higher Education Committee

 Introduced March 27, 2025 · Last Action March 31, 2025 · No Further Movement

 Reps. Imani Barnes, Lydia Glaize, Rhonda Burnough, Billy Mitchell, Kim Schofield, Park Cannon (all Democratic)

Would have created a pilot grant program through the **Georgia Student Finance Authority** to help students afford tuition at state-approved schools of barbering, cosmetology, esthetics, hair design, or nail care. The bill included eligibility requirements, maximum award amounts, application procedures, school compliance standards, mandatory data collection, and an automatic repeal provision. Referred

to the House Higher Education Committee on March 31, 2025 — no committee hearing, vote, or further action occurred. The bill died in committee at the end of the session.

 **No further action expected in this session. A similar concept could be reintroduced in a future session with broader bipartisan support.**

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SB 275 **Board of Cosmetology & Barbers — Remove from Secretary of State Jurisdiction, Create Independent Division**

Died in Committee — Senate · No Action After Introduction

 Introduced Feb. 26, 2025 · Referred Feb. 27, 2025 · No Further Action

 15 Democratic Senators including Tonya Anderson, Gail Davenport, Kim Jackson

Would have restructured Georgia's cosmetology and barbering regulatory framework by **removing the State Board of Cosmetology and Barbers from the Secretary of State's jurisdiction** and establishing it as an independent division within the Georgia Department of Public Health, effective July 1, 2025. The bill would have created a new executive director position appointed by the board, expanded rule-making and investigative authority, mandated veteran licensing preference points, and required shops, salons, and schools to register with the new executive director before operating. Despite 15 Senate co-sponsors, the bill received no committee hearing and died without advancing.

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GA Board of Cosmetology & Barbers

Licensing, renewals, school approvals, and official guidance from the Georgia State Board of Cosmetology and Barbers under the Secretary of State's office.

[Visit legis.ga.gov](https://legis.ga.gov) ↗[Visit sos.ga.gov](https://sos.ga.gov) ↗

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Independent analysis and news coverage of Georgia occupational licensing legislation — a useful resource for understanding reform proposals and industry impacts.

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Association of Cosmetology Salon Professionals (ACSP)

Legislative tracking for Georgia beauty industry professionals · Updated October 1, 2026

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