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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

S.B. 289  
136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsor:** Sen. Hicks-Hudson

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### SUMMARY

- Requires the State Cosmetology and Barber Board to establish and administer a natural hair stylist education grant program.
- Specifies conditions under which the Board may award a grant under the program to a school.

Appropriates \$1 million in FY 2026 to support the activities of the program.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Natural hair education grant program

The bill requires the State Cosmetology and Barber Board to establish a grant program to increase the number of students engaged in learning the practice of natural hair styling in cosmetology schools.<sup>1</sup>

Under continuing law, the “practice of natural hair styling” means embellishing or beautifying hair, wigs, or hairpieces by arranging, dressing, pressing, curling, cleansing, cutting, singeing, braiding, weaving, bonding and fusion of individual strands or wefts, or similar work. Continuing law specifies that the “practice of natural hair styling” includes utilizing techniques performed by hand that result in tension on hair roots such as twisting, wrapping, weaving, extending, locking, or braiding of the hair. However, it does not include the application of dyes, reactive chemicals, or other preparations to alter the color or to straighten, curl, or alter the structure of the hair.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 4713.47.

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 4713.01(JJ), not in the bill.

## Grant program administration

The Board must adopt rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to establish procedures for administering the grant program, including eligibility requirements for schools to receive a grant, the amounts in which grants may be made, and the total amount that may be awarded to a school.<sup>3</sup>

The bill specifies that the Board may award a grant under the program to a school to offer any of the following:

- A course of practical training and technical instruction for natural hair styling;
- Post-secondary or advanced practice programs for cosmetology license holders to broaden a licensee’s knowledge of and skill set in natural hair styling, provided the school offers a course of practical training and technical instruction for natural hair styling;
- Seminars or workshops focused on hair care techniques and management of textured hair and cultural sensitivity, in collaboration with experts in the practice or teaching of natural hair styling and educators of diversity training.

Schools awarded a grant to offer a post-secondary or advanced practice program may include specified topics as part of the program, including the science of different hair textures, training in styling techniques and care for textured hair, and the significance of hair care for textured hair and natural, protective, or cultural hair styles.

A school seeking to participate in the program must apply to the Board in the form and manner prescribed by the Board.<sup>4</sup>

## Appropriations

The bill appropriates \$1 million in FY 2026 to support the activities of the Natural Hair Education Grant Program.<sup>5</sup>

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## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	10-08-25

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ANSB0289IN-136/ts

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<sup>3</sup> R.C. 4713.08, by reference to R.C. Chapter 119.

<sup>4</sup> R.C. 4713.47.

<sup>5</sup> Sections 3 and 4.