

Late yesterday, Tuesday, April 13, a news agency incorrectly reported what House Bill 1312 does and its effective date. The news agency further confused the situation by discussing the laws created by the new Universal Licensing Act (HB 1263), also passed this session, as being the laws created by HB 1312.

Correction and Clarification.

HB 1312 successful passed the Legislature this past session and was signed by the Governor, effective upon passage. Accordingly, it is now the law in MS.

HB 1312 keeps in place all of the Cosmetology Laws in the State of MS.

The laws regulating and requiring licensing for cosmetologists, estheticians, manicurists, salons, schools, and school instructors in MS are alive and well today and will be continued to be enforced by the Board.

However, there are 3 exceptions. The practice of makeup artistry standing alone, the practice of threading standing alone and the practice of applying and removing eyelash extensions standing alone have all been deregulated. The Board of Cosmetology no longer has jurisdiction over these three practices.

For example, if all you would like to do is the practice of threading and nothing more, your practice will not be regulated in MS. The same with makeup artistry and with eyelash extensions

HB 1312 was unanimously supported by the Board of Cosmetology for several reasons;

1.) Several federal lawsuits are currently pending against the Board and several more were threatened concerning the regulation of the practice of threading, the practice of applying and removing eyelash extensions and the practice of makeup artistry. Current federal case law supports the claims of the Plaintiffs in these lawsuits. However, the passage of HB 1312 should resolve all of these lawsuits.

2.) The Public Policy established by the Legislature in the State of Mississippi is to reduce the regulatory burden on occupations which require licensing in MS.

Accordingly, the Legislature established the Occupational Licensing Review Commission to oversee occupational licensing boards and for the following purposes:

- Increase economic opportunities for all of its citizens by promoting competition and thereby encouraging innovation and job growth; and

- Use the least restrictive regulation necessary to protect consumers from present, significant and substantiated harms that threaten public health and safety.