

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to prohibited discrimination based on  
 3           hairstyle; providing a short title; amending s.  
 4           1000.05, F.S.; defining the term "protected  
 5           hairstyle"; prohibiting discrimination based on  
 6           protected hairstyle in the K-20 public education  
 7           system; amending s. 1002.20, F.S.; defining the terms  
 8           "race" and "protected hairstyles" for purposes of  
 9           public K-12 nondiscrimination requirements; amending  
 10          s. 1002.421, F.S.; defining the terms "race" and  
 11          "protected hairstyles" for purposes of  
 12          antidiscrimination requirements for private schools  
 13          participating in the state school choice scholarship  
 14          program; providing an effective date.

15  
 16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 18           **Section 1.** This act may be cited as the "Creating a  
 19 Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair Act" or "CROWN Act."

20           **Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 1000.05, Florida**  
 21 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

22           1000.05 Discrimination against students and employees in  
 23 the Florida K-20 public education system prohibited; equality of  
 24 access required.—

25           (2) (a) As used in this section, the term "protected

26 | hairstyle" means hair characteristics historically associated  
27 | with race, such as hair texture and styles, including, but not  
28 | limited to, afros, braids, locks, or twists.

29 |       **(b)** Discrimination on the basis of race, color, national  
30 | origin, sex, disability, religion, or marital status against a  
31 | student or an employee in the state system of public K-20  
32 | education is prohibited. No person in this state shall, on the  
33 | basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability,  
34 | religion, or marital status, be excluded from participation in,  
35 | be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination  
36 | under any public K-20 education program or activity, or in any  
37 | employment conditions or practices, conducted by a public  
38 | educational institution that receives or benefits from federal  
39 | or state financial assistance. Additionally, discrimination on  
40 | the basis of a protected hairstyle against a student in the  
41 | state system of public K-20 education is prohibited. A student  
42 | may not be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits  
43 | of, or subjected to discrimination under any public K-20  
44 | education program or activity on the basis of a protected  
45 | hairstyle.

46 |       **(c)** ~~(b)~~ The criteria for admission to a program or course  
47 | may shall not have the effect of restricting access by students  
48 | ~~persons~~ of a particular race, color, national origin, sex,  
49 | disability, religion, or marital status or with a protected  
50 | hairstyle.

51        (d)~~(e)~~ All public K-20 education classes must ~~shall~~ be  
52 available to all students without regard to race, color,  
53 protected hairstyle, national origin, sex, disability, religion,  
54 or marital status; however, this is not intended to eliminate  
55 the provision of programs designed to meet the needs of students  
56 with limited proficiency in English, gifted students, or  
57 students with disabilities or programs tailored to students with  
58 specialized talents or skills.

59        (e)~~(d)~~ Students may be separated by sex for a single-  
60 gender program, for any portion of a class that deals with human  
61 reproduction, or during participation in bodily contact sports.  
62 For the purpose of this section, bodily contact sports include  
63 wrestling, boxing, rugby, ice hockey, football, basketball, and  
64 other sports in which the purpose or major activity involves  
65 bodily contact.

66        (f)~~(e)~~ Guidance services, counseling services, and  
67 financial assistance services in the state public K-20 education  
68 system shall be available to students equally. Guidance and  
69 counseling services, materials, and promotional events shall  
70 stress access to academic and career opportunities for students  
71 without regard to race, color, protected hairstyle, national  
72 origin, sex, disability, religion, or marital status.

73        **Section 3. Subsection (7) of section 1002.20, Florida**  
74 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

75        1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.—Parents of public

76 school students must receive accurate and timely information  
77 regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed  
78 of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12  
79 students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory  
80 rights including, but not limited to, the following:

81 (7) NONDISCRIMINATION.—All education programs, activities,  
82 and opportunities offered by public educational institutions  
83 must be made available without discrimination on the basis of  
84 race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, disability, religion,  
85 or marital status, in accordance with ~~the provisions of s.~~  
86 1000.05. For purposes of this subsection, the term "race" is  
87 inclusive of traits historically associated with race,  
88 including, but not limited to, hair texture, hair type, and  
89 protected hairstyles. The term "protected hairstyles" includes,  
90 but is not limited to, afros, braids, locks, or twists.

91 **Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section**  
92 **1002.421, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

93 1002.421 State school choice scholarship program  
94 accountability and oversight.—

95 (1) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—A private  
96 school participating in an educational scholarship program  
97 established pursuant to this chapter must be a private school as  
98 defined in s. 1002.01 in this state, be registered, and be in  
99 compliance with all requirements of this section in addition to  
100 private school requirements outlined in s. 1002.42, specific

101 requirements identified within respective scholarship program  
102 laws, and other provisions of Florida law that apply to private  
103 schools, and must:

104 (a) Comply with the antidiscrimination provisions of 42  
105 U.S.C. s. 2000d. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "race"  
106 as used in 42 U.S.C. s. 2000d is inclusive of traits  
107 historically associated with race, including, but not limited  
108 to, hair texture, hair type, and protected hairstyles. The term  
109 "protected hairstyles" includes, but is not limited to, afros,  
110 braids, locks, or twists.

111  
112 The department shall suspend the payment of funds to a private  
113 school that knowingly fails to comply with this subsection, and  
114 shall prohibit the school from enrolling new scholarship  
115 students, for 1 fiscal year and until the school complies. If a  
116 private school fails to meet the requirements of this subsection  
117 or has consecutive years of material exceptions listed in the  
118 report required under paragraph (q), the commissioner may  
119 determine that the private school is ineligible to participate  
120 in a scholarship program.

121 **Section 5.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.