

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2185

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE PROUDIE.

4462H.02I

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 160, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to discriminatory practices.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 160, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 160.083, to read as follows:

160.083. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Missouri Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair (Missouri CROWN) Act".

2. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

(1) "Educational institution", any public or private prekindergarten program, public or private elementary or secondary school, or public or private school board or other school administrative body;

(2) "Protective hairstyle", a hairstyle necessitated by, or resulting from, the immutable characteristics of hair texture or type and historically associated with race that includes, but is not limited to braids, locks, afros, curls, and twists;

(3) "State financial assistance", any funds or other form of financial aid appropriated or authorized under the laws of this state, or under any federal law administered by any state agency, for the purpose of providing assistance to any educational institution for its own benefit or for the benefit of any pupils admitted to the educational institution. "State financial assistance" shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following:

(a) Grants of state property, or any interest therein;

(b) Provision of the services of state personnel; and

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets ~~thus~~ in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 (c) Funds provided by contract, tax rebate, appropriation, allocation, or
19 formula;

20 (4) "State student financial aid", any funds or other form of financial aid
21 appropriated or authorized under the laws of this state, or under any federal law
22 administered by any state agency, for the purpose of providing assistance directly to any
23 student admitted to an educational institution. "State student financial aid" shall
24 include, but not be limited to, scholarships, loans, grants, or wages.

25 3. No person shall be subjected to discrimination on the basis of wearing a
26 protective hairstyle in any program or activity conducted by an educational institution
27 that receives or benefits from state financial assistance or enrolls pupils who receive
28 state student financial aid; provided, however, that such institution may require the use
29 of hair nets or coverings, or may require that hair be secured for safety purposes in any
30 career and technical training course or class to comply with safety regulations and
31 standards of the course or class throughout the duration of the course or class.

32 4. The provisions of subsection 3 of this section shall not apply to an educational
33 institution that is controlled by a religious organization if the application would not be
34 consistent with the religious tenets of that organization.

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