

SENATE, No. 1906

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 27, 2014

Sponsored by:

Senator PETER J. BARNES, III

District 18 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

“Pet Groomers Licensing Act;” designated as “Bijou’s Law.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT providing for the licensing of pet groomers and the
2 registration of certain businesses, designated as “Bijou’s Law,”
3 and supplementing chapter 16 of Title 45 of the Revised Statutes.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*
7

8 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Pet
9 Groomers Licensing Act.”
10

11 2. As used in this act:

12 “Board” means the State Board of Veterinary Medical
13 Examiners.

14 “Pet” means any animal placed in the care of a pet groomer for
15 grooming or styling.

16 “Pet groomer” means an individual licensed as a pet groomer,
17 who engages in pet grooming.

18 “Pet grooming” means the act of bathing, brushing, clipping, or
19 styling a pet.

20 “Registered student” means a person who is engaged in learning
21 and acquiring a knowledge of the practice of pet grooming, under
22 the direction and supervision of a person duly authorized under this
23 act to teach pet grooming and who is enrolled in a program of
24 instruction at a licensed school of pet grooming, completion of
25 which may render him eligible for licensure pursuant to this act.

26 “School” means an establishment or place licensed by the board
27 to be maintained for the purpose of teaching pet grooming to
28 registered students.
29

30 3. The board shall:

31 a. Review the qualifications of applicants for licensure under
32 this act;

33 b. Ensure the proper conduct and standards of examination;

34 c. Issue and renew licenses to pet groomers and schools
35 pursuant to the provisions of this act;

36 d. Suspend, revoke, or fail to renew the license of a pet
37 groomer pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1978, c.73 (C.45:1-14 et
38 seq.);

39 e. Prescribe or change the charges for examinations, licensures,
40 renewals and other services performed pursuant to P.L.1974, c.46
41 (C.45:1-3.1 et seq.);

42 f. Adopt rules and regulations pursuant to the “Administrative
43 Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.); and

44 g. Maintain a record of every pet groomer licensed in this
45 State, and the date and number of his license, and publish a list of
46 the names and addresses of all licensees annually.

1 4. No person shall practice, attempt to practice, or hold himself
2 out as being able to practice pet grooming unless that person is
3 licensed in accordance with the provisions of this act.

4
5 5. To be eligible to be licensed as a pet groomer, an applicant
6 shall fulfill the following requirements:

- 7 a. Be at least 18 years of age;
8 b. Be of good moral character; and
9 c. Pass an examination prepared by or approved by the board to
10 determine the applicant's competence to practice pet grooming.

11
12 6. a. The examination required by subsection c. of section 5 of
13 this act shall include both a practical demonstration and a written
14 test, and shall be consistent in both practical and technical
15 requirements.

16 b. The examination required by subsection c. of section 5 of
17 this act shall be held within the State at least four times a year at a
18 time and place to be determined by the board. The board may
19 contract or otherwise arrange for reasonably required physical
20 accommodations and facilities to conduct examinations.

21 c. The board may, by regulation, establish standards and
22 procedures to provide that the written test be offered via the Internet
23 and the practical demonstration portion of the examination be
24 offered throughout the year to an applicant under the aegis of a
25 licensed pet groomer.

26
27 7. No person, firm, corporation, partnership or other legal
28 entity shall operate, maintain or use premises at which courses of
29 instruction in pet grooming are offered to registered students
30 without first having secured a school license from the board. All
31 educational programs and courses offered at school premises shall
32 be conducted by persons holding pet groomer licenses.

33
34 8. a. All pet groomer and school licenses shall be issued for a
35 two-year period and shall be renewed upon filing of a renewal
36 application.

37 b. All applicants shall pay a fee for licensure or renewal of
38 licensure under this act. Fees shall be determined by the board and
39 established by regulation. The revenue generated from these fees
40 shall not exceed the operating costs incurred by the board in
41 administering this act.

42
43 9. The provisions of this act shall not apply to:

44 a. A registered student in a school licensed by the board if the
45 student is performing grooming services under appropriate
46 supervision at the school in which they are enrolled; or

47 b. An individual engaged in performing grooming services
48 while not enrolled in a school if the individual performs those

1 services under the direct supervision of a licensed pet groomer and
2 while training in preparation of the pet groomer's licensing
3 examination.

4

5 10. a. No business shall engage in or advertise or hold itself out
6 as offering pet grooming services unless the business is registered
7 with the board.

8 b. A written application for registration shall be made to the
9 board on the form prescribed by the board and shall contain the
10 following information:

11 (1) The name and residence of the owner or operator of the
12 entity providing pet grooming services;

13 (2) The municipality and location of the owner or operator's
14 primary place of business and the locations of all other branches of
15 business;

16 (3) Proof of general liability insurance or a letter of credit of a
17 type and amount required by the board by regulation; and

18 (4) Any other biographical information of the applicant as
19 required by the board.

20 c. Each applicant for registration and each registrant pursuant
21 to the provisions of this section shall pay to the board a fee for the
22 issuance of a two-year registration in the amount established by the
23 board in accordance with the provisions of P.L.1974, c.46 (C.45:1-
24 3.1 et seq.).

25

26 11. No business shall engage in or offer pet grooming services
27 unless the business, as determined by the board by regulation,
28 complies with the following:

29 a. Pets not in the grooming process shall be caged separately in
30 a structurally sound and clean cage large enough to allow each pet
31 to make normal postural adjustments, including sitting, standing,
32 and turning around;

33 b. Sufficient lighting shall be provided to facilitate the cleaning
34 of pets and facilities;

35 c. The premises of the pet grooming facility shall be
36 maintained in a sanitary condition;

37 d. An adequate water supply shall be available for drinking;
38 and

39 e. Drying cages shall not be utilized.

40

41 12. Every pet grooming business shall maintain a pet incident
42 file to be submitted annually to the board, in a form as may be
43 prescribed by the board, which shall contain the following
44 information:

45 a. Pet injuries sustained while at the facility that required
46 veterinary contact;

47 b. Severe pet illnesses;

- 1 c. Veterinary treatment plans relevant to pet grooming
2 procedures and processes;
3 d. Pet deaths; and
4 e. Pet escapes.
5

6 13. The board may suspend or revoke the registration of any
7 business offering pet grooming upon proof showing by a
8 preponderance of the evidence that the business:

- 9 a. Has made false or misleading statements of a material nature
10 in the application for registration;
11 b. Failed to demonstrate that each employee of the employer
12 who is engaged in the performance of pet grooming is in possession
13 of a license to practice pet grooming;
14 c. Failed to demonstrate proof of having general liability
15 insurance or a letter of credit of a type and amount required by the
16 board; or
17 d. Failed to comply with the provisions of section 11 or 12 of
18 this act.
19

20 14. a. Every holder of a license or registration issued by the
21 board shall display it to the public at the location for which it was
22 issued.

23 b. Renewal of licenses and registrations shall be attached to the
24 original license or registration in the lower left-hand corner.
25

26 15. a. The board shall establish and undertake a public
27 information campaign to educate and inform the consumers of this
28 State of the provisions of this act. The public information campaign
29 shall include, but not be limited to, the preparation, printing, and
30 distribution of booklets, pamphlets or other written pertinent
31 information.

32 b. The board shall provide a toll-free telephone number for
33 consumers making inquiries or complaints regarding pet groomers
34 or pet grooming businesses.
35

36 16. This act shall take effect on the 360th day next following
37 enactment, but the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners
38 may take such anticipatory acts in advance of that date as may be
39 necessary for the timely implementation of this act.
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43 STATEMENT

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45 This bill, to be known as "Bijou's Law," provides for the
46 licensing of pet groomers. The bill defines a "pet groomer" as an
47 individual who bathes, brushes, clips, or styles a pet for
compensation.

1 To be eligible for licensure as a pet groomer, an applicant must:
2 be at least 18 years of age; be of good moral character; and pass an
3 examination prepared by or approved by the State Board of
4 Veterinary Medical Examiners to determine the applicant's
5 competence to practice pet grooming.

6 The bill stipulates that no person shall practice, attempt to
7 practice, or hold himself out as being able to practice pet grooming
8 unless that person is licensed in accordance with the provisions of
9 this bill.

10 In addition, as specified in the bill, none of the bill's provisions
11 shall apply to: a registered student in a school licensed by the board
12 if the student is performing grooming services under appropriate
13 supervision at the school in which they are enrolled; or an
14 individual engaged in performing grooming services while not
15 enrolled in a school if the individual performs those services under
16 the direct supervision of a licensed pet groomer and while training
17 in preparation of the pet groomer's licensing examination.

18 This bill also mandates that no business shall engage in or
19 advertise or hold itself out as offering pet grooming services unless
20 the business is registered with the board. Furthermore, any such
21 business shall provide to the board evidence of proof of general
22 liability insurance or a letter of credit of a type and amount required
23 by the board by regulation. In addition, the bill provides that no
24 business shall engage in or offer pet grooming services unless the
25 business provides proper sanitary conditions, sufficient lighting, an
26 adequate water supply, and structurally sound and clean cages for
27 the pets that are being groomed.

28 The bill also mandates that every pet grooming business shall
29 maintain a pet incident file to be submitted annually to the State
30 Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, in a form as may be
31 prescribed by the board, which shall contain the following
32 information: pet injuries sustained while at the facility that required
33 veterinary contact; severe pet illnesses; veterinary treatment plans
34 relevant to pet grooming procedures and processes; pet deaths; and
35 pet escapes.

36 The board may suspend or revoke the registration of any
37 business offering pet grooming upon proof showing by a
38 preponderance of the evidence that the business: has made false or
39 misleading statements of a material nature in the application for
40 registration; failed to demonstrate that each employee of the
41 employer who is engaged in the performance of pet grooming is in
42 possession of a license to practice pet grooming; failed to
43 demonstrate proof of having general liability insurance or a letter of
44 credit of a type and amount required by the board; failed to comply
45 with the aforementioned sanitary and facility conditions required of
46 businesses engaging in or offering pet grooming services; or failed
47 to maintain the pet incident file, as required by the bill.

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1 Furthermore, the bill requires the State Board of Veterinary
2 Medical Examiners to establish and undertake a public information
3 campaign to educate and inform the consumers of New Jersey of the
4 provisions in this bill. The bill also mandates that the board shall
5 provide a toll-free telephone number for consumers making
6 inquiries or complaints regarding pet groomers or pet grooming
7 businesses.