

# ASSEMBLY, No. 2264

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 2014

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Assemblywoman ANGELICA M. JIMENEZ**

**District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)**

**Assemblyman CARMELO G. GARCIA**

**District 33 (Hudson)**

**SYNOPSIS**

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

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/13/2015)

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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42 STATEMENT

43  
44 This bill, to be known as “Bijou’s Law,” provides for the  
45 licensing of pet groomers. The bill defines a “pet groomer” as an  
46 individual who bathes, brushes, clips, or styles a pet for  
47 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.

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.