

ASSEMBLY, No. 663

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

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District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman ANGELICA M. JIMENEZ

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

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Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Mejia, Benson and Assemblywoman Murphy

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



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 New Jersey State Board of Pet Groomers.

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

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

17 “Pet grooming” includes but is not limited to the act of bathing,
18 brushing, clipping, or styling a pet.

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

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

29 3. There is created within the Division of Consumer Affairs in
30 the Department of Law and Public Safety the New Jersey State
31 Board of Pet Groomers. The board shall consist of nine members
32 who are residents of the State. Two shall be public members
33 appointed pursuant to subsection b. of section 2 of P.L.1971, c.60
34 (C.45:1-2.2). One member shall be an Executive Branch member
35 appointed pursuant to subsection c. of section 2 of P.L.1971, c.60
36 (C.45:1-2.2). Of the remaining six members, four shall be pet
37 groomers who, except for those first appointed, shall be licensed
38 pursuant this act; and two shall be licensed veterinarians. Members
39 of the board shall be appointed by the Governor and, except for the
40 Executive Branch member, shall serve for terms of three years, with
41 no member serving for more than two consecutive terms. The
42 board may take action only by an affirmative vote of no less than
43 five members. Members shall serve without compensation but shall
44 receive actual and necessary expenses.
45

46 4. The board shall:

47 a. Review the qualifications of applicants for licensure under
48 this act;

- 1 b. Ensure the proper conduct and standards of examination;
- 2 c. Issue and renew licenses to pet groomers and schools
- 3 pursuant to the provisions of this act;
- 4 d. Suspend, revoke, or fail to renew the license of a pet
- 5 groomer pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1978, c.73 (C.45:1-14 et
- 6 seq.);
- 7 e. Prescribe or change the charges for examinations and other
- 8 services performed pursuant to P.L.1974, c.46 (C.45:1-3.1 et seq.);
- 9 f. Adopt rules and regulations pursuant to the “Administrative
- 10 Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.); and
- 11 g. Maintain a record of every pet groomer licensed in this
- 12 State, and the date and number of his license, and publish a list of
- 13 the names and addresses of all licensees annually.
- 14
- 15 5. No person shall practice, attempt to practice, or hold himself
- 16 out as being able to practice pet grooming unless that person is
- 17 licensed in accordance with the provisions of this act.
- 18
- 19 6. To be eligible to be licensed as a pet groomer, an applicant
- 20 shall fulfill the following requirements:
- 21 a. Be at least 18 years of age;
- 22 b. Be of good moral character; and
- 23 c. Pass an examination prepared by or approved by the board to
- 24 determine the applicant’s competence to practice pet grooming.
- 25
- 26 7. a. The examination required by subsection c. of section 6 of
- 27 this act shall include both a practical demonstration and a written
- 28 test, and shall be consistent in both practical and technical
- 29 requirements.
- 30 b. The examination required by subsection c. of section 6 of
- 31 this act shall be held within the State at least four times a year at a
- 32 time and place to be determined by the board. The board may
- 33 contract or otherwise arrange for reasonably required physical
- 34 accommodations and facilities to conduct examinations.
- 35 c. The board may, by regulation, establish standards and
- 36 procedures to provide that the written test be offered via the Internet
- 37 and the practical demonstration portion of the examination be
- 38 offered throughout the year to an applicant under the aegis of a
- 39 licensed pet groomer.
- 40
- 41 8. No person, firm, corporation, partnership or other legal
- 42 entity shall operate, maintain or use premises at which courses of
- 43 instruction in pet grooming are offered to registered students
- 44 without first having secured a school license from the board. All
- 45 educational programs and courses offered at school premises shall
- 46 be conducted by persons holding pet groomer licenses. The board
- 47 shall develop the pet grooming curriculum to be used in the schools

1 and shall collaborate with schools to utilize and incorporate
2 industry best practices and standards.

3

4 9. a. All pet groomer and school licenses shall be issued for a
5 two-year period and shall be renewed upon filing of a renewal
6 application.

7 b. All applicants shall pay a fee of \$75 for licensure or \$50 for
8 renewal of licensure under this act.

9 c. The board shall promulgate rules and regulations for
10 implementing continuing education requirements as a condition of
11 license renewal for pet groomer licenses issued pursuant to this act.

12 d. The board shall establish standards for continuing education,
13 including the subject matter and content of courses of study, and the
14 number and type of continuing education credits required of a
15 licensee as a condition of biennial license renewal.

16

17 10. The provisions of this act shall not apply to:

18 a. A registered student in a school licensed by the board if the
19 student is performing grooming services under appropriate
20 supervision at the school in which they are enrolled;

21 b. An individual engaged in performing grooming services
22 while not enrolled in a school if the individual is at least 16 years of
23 age and performs those services under the direct supervision of a
24 licensed pet groomer and while training in preparation of the pet
25 groomer's licensing examination; or

26 c. An individual who grooms a dog or cat in the course of
27 preparing it for a dog show, cat show, or other competitive event.

28

29 11. a. No business shall engage in pet grooming as a business
30 service or advertise or hold itself out as offering pet grooming
31 services unless the business is currently registered with the board
32 and meets all the requirements of this act.

33 b. A written application for registration shall be made to the
34 board on the form prescribed by the board and shall contain the
35 following information:

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

38 (2) The municipality and location of the owner or operator's
39 primary place of business and the locations of all other branches of
40 business;

41 (3) Proof of general liability insurance or an unconditional
42 irrevocable letter of credit of a type and amount required by the
43 board by regulation; and

44 (4) Any other biographical information of the applicant as
45 required by the board.

46 c. Each applicant for registration and each registrant pursuant
47 to the provisions of this section shall pay to the board a fee for the
48 issuance of a two-year registration in the amount established by the

1 board in accordance with the provisions of P.L.1974, c.46 (C.45:1-
2 3.1 et seq.).

3

4 12. No business shall engage in pet grooming as a business
5 service or offer pet grooming services unless the business, as
6 determined by the board by regulation, complies with the following:

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

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

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

15 d. An adequate water supply shall be available for drinking;
16 and

17 e. Drying cages that use a heat element shall not be utilized
18 unless the owner of the pet grants written prior consent to the use of
19 drying cages for the pet and the business has notified the owner of
20 the danger and risk associated with the use of drying cages prior to
21 the owner granting written consent to the business.

22 Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection a. of this section,
23 two pets not in the grooming process, who are owned by the same
24 owner, may be caged in a structurally sound and clean cage large
25 enough to allow each pet to make normal postural adjustments,
26 including sitting, standing, and turning around.

27

28 13. Every pet grooming business shall maintain a pet incident
29 report to be submitted to the board no later than 10 days after the
30 date of the incident, in a form as may be prescribed by the board.

31 For the purposes of this section, "incident" means any event in
32 which the skin of any pet or person is broken, a pet sustains an
33 injury of any kind during the course of a grooming session, or a pet
34 has an allergic reaction during the course of a grooming session.

35

36 14. The board may suspend, revoke, or fail to renew the
37 registration of any business offering pet grooming upon proof
38 showing by a preponderance of the evidence that the business:

39 a. Made false or misleading statements of a material nature in
40 the application or renewal for registration;

41 b. Failed to demonstrate that each employee of the employer
42 who is engaged in the performance of pet grooming is in possession
43 of a license to practice pet grooming;

44 c. Failed to demonstrate proof of having general liability
45 insurance or an unconditional irrevocable letter of credit of a type
46 and amount required by the board; or

47 d. Failed to comply with the provisions of section 12 or 13 of
48 this act.

1 15. a. Every holder of a license or registration issued by the
2 board shall display it to the public in a conspicuous place at the
3 location for which it was issued.

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

6 c. Any license or registration that is suspended, revoked, or not
7 renewed shall be removed from the premises of the location for
8 which it was issued.

9
10 16. a. The board shall establish and undertake a public
11 information campaign to educate and inform the consumers of this
12 State of the provisions of this act. The public information campaign
13 shall include, but not be limited to, the preparation, printing, and
14 distribution of booklets, pamphlets or other written pertinent
15 information.

16 b. The board shall provide a toll-free telephone number for
17 consumers making inquiries or complaints regarding pet groomers
18 or pet grooming businesses.

19
20 17. Sections 3 and 4 of this act shall take effect immediately.
21 The remaining sections of this act shall take effect on the 360th
22 day next following enactment, but the New Jersey State Board of
23 Pet Groomers may take any anticipatory action in advance of that
24 date as may be necessary for the timely implementation of this act.

25
26
27 STATEMENT
28

29 This bill to be known as the “Pet Groomers Licensing Act” or
30 “Bijou’s Law,” provides for the licensing of pet groomers under the
31 New Jersey State Board of Pet Groomers, established by the bill. The
32 bill defines a “pet groomer” as an individual licensed to bathe, brush,
33 clip, or style a pet.

34 To be eligible for licensure as a pet groomer, an applicant must: be
35 at least 18 years of age; be of good moral character; and pass an
36 examination prepared by or approved by the board to determine the
37 applicant’s competence to practice pet grooming. A pet groomer
38 license would be issued for a two-year period, for a fee of \$75 for
39 initial licensure and \$50 for renewal.

40 The bill stipulates that no person may practice, attempt to practice,
41 or hold oneself out as being able to practice pet grooming unless that
42 person is licensed in accordance with the provisions of this bill.

43 In addition, as specified in the bill, none of the bill’s provisions
44 apply to: a registered student in a school licensed by the board if the
45 student is performing grooming services under appropriate supervision
46 at the school in which they are enrolled; an individual engaged in
47 performing grooming services while not enrolled in a school if the
48 individual is at least 16 years of age and performs those services under

1 the direct supervision of a licensed pet groomer and while training in
2 preparation of the pet groomer's licensing examination; or an
3 individual who grooms a dog or cat to prepare it for a show or
4 competitive event.

5 This bill also mandates that no business is to engage in or advertise
6 or hold itself out as offering pet grooming services to consumers
7 unless the business is registered with the board. Furthermore, a
8 business must provide to the board evidence of proof of general
9 liability insurance or an unconditional irrevocable letter of credit of a
10 type and amount required by the board by regulation. In addition, the
11 bill provides that no business may engage in or offer pet grooming
12 services unless the business provides proper sanitary conditions,
13 sufficient lighting, an adequate water supply, and structurally sound
14 and clean cages for the pets that are being groomed.

15 The bill also mandates that every pet grooming business must
16 maintain a pet incident report to be submitted to the board within 10
17 days of any incident, in a form as may be prescribed by the board.

18 The board may suspend or revoke the registration of any business
19 offering pet grooming upon proof showing by a preponderance of the
20 evidence that the business: made false or misleading statements of a
21 material nature in the application for registration; failed to demonstrate
22 that each employee of the employer who is engaged in the
23 performance of pet grooming is in possession of a license to practice
24 pet grooming; failed to demonstrate proof of having general liability
25 insurance or an unconditional irrevocable letter of credit of a type and
26 amount required by the board; failed to comply with the
27 aforementioned sanitary and facility conditions required of businesses
28 engaging in or offering pet grooming services; or failed to maintain
29 and submit a pet incident report, as required by the bill.

30 Furthermore, the bill requires the board to establish and undertake
31 a public information campaign to educate and inform New Jersey
32 consumers of the provisions in this bill. The bill also mandates that
33 the board provide a toll-free telephone number for consumers making
34 inquiries or complaints regarding pet groomers or pet grooming
35 businesses.