

SENATE, No. 182

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator BRIAN P. STACK

District 33 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Greenstein

SYNOPSIS

Requires licensing of pet groomers and registration of certain other businesses; establishes certain licensing and operating requirements.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/3/2022)

1 **AN ACT** concerning the regulation of pet groomers and certain other
2 businesses, and supplementing chapter 16 of Title 45 of the
3 Revised Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. As used in this act:

9 “Board” means the State Board of Veterinary Medical
10 Examiners.

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

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

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

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

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

26
27 2. The board shall:

28 a. Review the qualifications of applicants for licensure under
29 this act;

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

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

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

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

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

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

44
45 3. No person shall practice, attempt to practice, or hold himself
46 out as being able to practice pet grooming unless that person is
47 licensed in accordance with the provisions of this act.

- 1 4. To be eligible to be licensed as a pet groomer, an applicant
2 shall fulfill the following requirements:
- 3 a. Be at least 18 years of age;
4 b. Be of good moral character; and
5 c. Pass an examination prepared by or approved by the board to
6 determine the applicant's competence to practice pet grooming.
7
- 8 5. a. The examination required by subsection c. of this section
9 shall include both a practical demonstration and a written test, and
10 shall be consistent in both practical and technical requirements.
- 11 b. The examination required by subsection c. of section 5 of
12 this act shall be held within the State at least four times a year at a
13 time and place to be determined by the board. The board may
14 contract or otherwise arrange for reasonably required physical
15 accommodations and facilities to conduct examinations.
- 16 c. The board may, by regulation, establish standards and
17 procedures to provide that the written test be offered via the Internet
18 and the practical demonstration portion of the examination be
19 offered throughout the year to an applicant under the aegis of a
20 licensed pet groomer.
21
- 22 6. No person, firm, corporation, partnership or other legal
23 entity shall operate, maintain or use premises at which courses of
24 instruction in pet grooming are offered to registered students
25 without first having secured a school license from the board. All
26 educational programs and courses offered at school premises shall
27 be conducted by persons holding pet groomer licenses.
28
- 29 7. a. All pet groomer and school licenses shall be issued for a
30 two-year period and shall be renewed upon filing of a renewal
31 application.
- 32 b. All applicants shall pay a fee for licensure or renewal of
33 licensure under this act. Fees shall be determined by the board and
34 established by regulation. The revenue generated from these fees
35 shall not exceed the operating costs incurred by the board in
36 administering this act.
37
- 38 8. The provisions of this act shall not apply to:
- 39 a. A registered student in a school licensed by the board if the
40 student is performing grooming services under appropriate
41 supervision at the school in which they are enrolled; or
42 b. An individual engaged in performing grooming services
43 while not enrolled in a school if the individual performs those
44 services under the direct supervision of a licensed pet groomer and
45 while training in preparation of the pet groomer's licensing
46 examination.
47
- 48 9. a. No business shall engage in or advertise or hold itself out

1 as offering pet grooming services unless the business is registered
2 with the board.

3 b. A written application for registration shall be made to the
4 board on the form prescribed by the board and shall contain the
5 following information:

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

8 (2) The municipality and location of the owner or operator's
9 primary place of business and the locations of all other branches of
10 business;

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

13 (4) Any other biographical information of the applicant as
14 required by the board.

15 c. Each applicant for registration and each registrant pursuant
16 to the provisions of this section shall pay to the board a fee for the
17 issuance of a two-year registration in the amount established by the
18 board in accordance with the provisions of P.L.1974, c.46 (C.45:1-
19 3.1 et seq.).
20

21 10. No business shall engage in or offer pet grooming services
22 unless the business, as prescribed by the board by regulation,
23 complies with the following:

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

28 b. An adequate water supply of drinking water shall be
29 available to all animals at all times;

30 c. Drying cages shall not be utilized;

31 d. Sufficient lighting shall be provided to facilitate the cleaning
32 of pets and facilities;

33 e. The premises of the pet grooming facility shall be
34 maintained in a sanitary condition;

35 f. Surveillance cameras shall be installed throughout the
36 business, to provide recorded video surveillance of all areas of the
37 business inside and outside on the property of the business, 24
38 hours a day, seven days a week; and

39 g. The footage from the surveillance cameras shall be kept by
40 the facility for at least 60 days.
41

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

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

48 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 12. 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 13. 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 14. 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 15. 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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STATEMENT

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44 This bill defines a “pet groomer” as an individual who bathes,
45 brushes, clips, or styles a pet for compensation, and requires pet
46 groomers to be licensed.

47 To be eligible for licensure as a pet groomer, an applicant must:
48 be at least 18 years of age; be of good moral character; and pass an
49 examination prepared by or approved by the State Board of

1 Veterinary Medical Examiners to determine the applicant's
2 competence to practice pet grooming.

3 The bill stipulates that in order to practice, attempt to practice, or
4 hold himself out as being able to practice pet grooming, that person
5 is required to be licensed in accordance with the provisions of this
6 bill.

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

15 This bill also mandates that no business is to engage in or
16 advertise or hold itself out as offering pet grooming services unless
17 the business is registered with the board. Furthermore, any such
18 business is required to provide to the board evidence of proof of
19 general liability insurance or a letter of credit of a type and amount
20 required by the board by regulation.

21 In addition, the bill provides that a business engaged in or
22 offering pet grooming services is required to comply with the
23 following requirements:

24 1) Pets not in the grooming process are required to be caged
25 separately in a structurally sound and clean cage large enough to
26 allow each pet to make normal postural adjustments, including
27 sitting, standing, and turning around;

28 2) An adequate water supply of drinking water is to be
29 available to all animals at all times;

30 3) Drying cages are not to be utilized;

31 4) Sufficient lighting must be provided to facilitate the cleaning
32 of pets and facilities;

33 5) The premises of the pet grooming facility is required to be
34 maintained in a sanitary condition;

35 6) Surveillance cameras are required throughout the business,
36 to provide recorded video surveillance of all areas of the business
37 inside and outside on the property of the business, 24 hours a day,
38 seven days a week; and

39 7) The footage from the surveillance cameras is required to be
40 kept by the facility at least 60 days.

41 The bill also mandates that every pet grooming business is
42 required to maintain a pet incident file to be submitted annually to
43 the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, in a form as may
44 be prescribed by the board, which must contain the following
45 information: pet injuries sustained while at the facility that required
46 veterinary contact; severe pet illnesses; veterinary treatment plans
47 relevant to pet grooming procedures and processes; pet deaths; and
48 pet escapes.

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1 The board may suspend or revoke the registration of any
2 business offering pet grooming upon proof showing by a
3 preponderance of the evidence that the business: has made false or
4 misleading statements of a material nature in the application for
5 registration; failed to demonstrate that each employee of the
6 employer who is engaged in the performance of pet grooming is in
7 possession of a license to practice pet grooming; failed to
8 demonstrate proof of having general liability insurance or a letter of
9 credit of a type and amount required by the board; failed to comply
10 with the aforementioned sanitary and facility conditions required of
11 businesses engaging in or offering pet grooming services; or failed
12 to maintain the pet incident file, as required by the bill.

13 Furthermore, the bill requires the State Board of Veterinary
14 Medical Examiners to establish and undertake a public information
15 campaign to educate and inform the consumers of New Jersey of the
16 provisions in this bill. The bill also mandates that the board provide
17 a toll-free telephone number for consumers making inquiries or
18 complaints regarding pet groomers or pet grooming businesses.