

SENATE BILL NO. 969

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR WASHINGTON.

3596S.01H

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

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
2 one new section, to be known as section 160.082, to read as
3 follows:

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

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

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

9 (2) "Protective hairstyles", includes, but is not
10 limited to, such hairstyles and coverings that are designed
11 to protect textured hair from damage so it may be worn in
12 its natural state as braids, locks, twists, and afros;

13 (3) "Race", includes a perception that a person is of
14 a particular racial group based upon shared physical traits
15 associated with ancestral origin or ethnicity, shared
16 cultural attributes, and similar physical characteristics
17 such as skin color and facial features;

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

26 (a) Grants of state property, or any interest therein;
27 (b) Provision of the services of state personnel; and
28 (c) Funds provided by contract, tax rebate,
29 appropriation, allocation, or formula;

30 (5) "State student financial aid", any funds or other
31 form of financial aid appropriated or authorized under the
32 laws of this state, or under any federal law administered by
33 any state agency, for the purpose of providing assistance
34 directly to any student admitted to an educational
35 institution. "State student financial aid" shall include,
36 but not be limited to, scholarships, loans, grants, or wages.

37 3. No person shall be subjected to discrimination
38 based on the person's hair texture or protective hairstyle,
39 if that protective hairstyle or texture is commonly
40 associated with a particular race or origin, in any program
41 or activity conducted by an educational institution that
42 receives or benefits from state financial assistance or
43 enrolls pupils who receive state student financial aid,
44 provided, however, that such institution may require the use
45 of hair nets or coverings or may require that hair be
46 secured for safety purposes in any career and technical
47 training course or class to comply with safety regulations
48 and standards of the course or class throughout the duration
49 of the course or class.

50 4. The provisions of subsection 3 of this section
51 shall not apply to an educational institution that is
52 controlled by a religious organization if the application of
53 such provision would not be consistent with the religious
54 tenets of that organization.

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