This bill specifies that the practice of cosmetology cannot include hair braiding. The bill requires that all individuals engaging in braiding first register with the State Board of Cosmetology and Barber Examiners. The purpose of the registration is only to maintain a listing of individuals who engage in hair braiding for compensation and does not authorize the board to license or regulate the practice of hair braiding in any way. The board must prepare a brochure containing information regarding infection control techniques for hair braiding that must contain a self-test with questions. An individual engaged in the practice of hair braiding is required to complete the self-test and make it available upon request.

This bill also removes the requirement that applicants for a barber license be free of contagious or infectious diseases. The bill removes the good moral character requirement for cosmetologists and specifies that applicants will be denied licensure if they have been found guilty of any of a set list of offenses. Under current law the board will grant a license, without first requiring an examination, to an applicant who already holds a license in another state where the requirements for licensure are substantially equal to the licensing requirements in Missouri. This bill removes the substantial similar requirement.

This bill also prevents any political subdivision from requiring a licensed barber or cosmetologist practicing within a barber or cosmetology shop to also obtain a business license.

This bill is similar to HB 1770 (2016).