

[Second Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 3044**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**218th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 8, 2018

**Sponsored by:**

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**District 37 (Bergen)**

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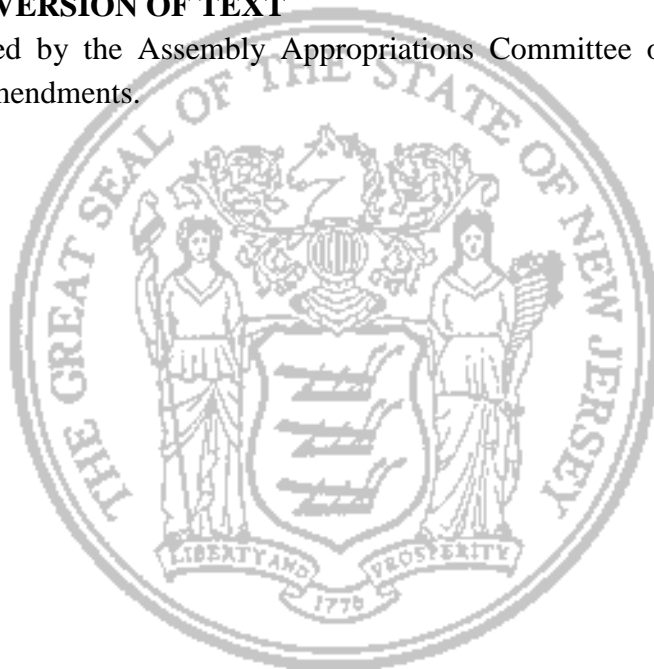
**Assemblymen Mejia, Benson and Assemblywoman Murphy**

**SYNOPSIS**

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

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on October 22, 2018, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/30/2018)**

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 <sup>1</sup>New Jersey<sup>1</sup> State Board of <sup>1</sup>Veterinary  
 13 Medical Examiners<sup>1</sup> **Pet Groomers**<sup>1</sup>.

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” <sup>1</sup>**means** includes but is not limited to<sup>1</sup> the act  
 19 of bathing, brushing, clipping, or 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 <sup>1</sup>3. There is created within the Division of Consumer Affairs in  
 31 the Department of Law and Public Safety the New Jersey State  
 32 Board of Pet Groomers. The board shall consist of nine members  
 33 who are residents of the State. <sup>2</sup>**Three** <sup>2</sup>Two<sup>2</sup> shall be public  
 34 members <sup>2</sup>**two**, two of whom shall be<sup>2</sup> appointed pursuant to  
 35 subsection b. of section 2 of P.L.1971, c.60 (C.45:1-2.2) <sup>2</sup>**two**, and one  
 36 additional public member<sup>2</sup>. One member shall be an Executive  
 37 Branch member appointed pursuant to subsection c. of section 2 of  
 38 P.L.1971, c.60 (C.45:1-2.2). Of the remaining <sup>2</sup>**five** <sup>2</sup>six<sup>2</sup>  
 39 members, <sup>2</sup>**three** <sup>2</sup>four<sup>2</sup> shall be pet groomers who, except for  
 40 those first appointed, shall be licensed pursuant this act; and two  
 41 shall be licensed veterinarians. Members of the board shall be  
 42 appointed by the Governor and, except for the Executive Branch  
 43 member, shall serve for terms of three years, with no member

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly ARP committee amendments adopted October 15, 2018.

<sup>2</sup>Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted October 22, 2018.

1 serving for more than two consecutive terms. The board may take  
2 action only by an affirmative vote of no less than five members.  
3 Members shall serve without compensation but shall receive actual  
4 and necessary expenses.<sup>1</sup>

5  
6 <sup>1</sup>~~3.~~ 4.<sup>1</sup> The board shall:

7 a. Review the qualifications of applicants for licensure under  
8 this act;

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

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

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

15 e. Prescribe or change the charges for examinations <sup>1</sup>~~],~~  
16 ~~licensures, renewals]~~<sup>1</sup> and other services performed pursuant to  
17 P.L.1974, c.46 (C.45:1-3.1 et seq.);

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

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

23  
24 <sup>1</sup>~~4.]~~ 5.<sup>1</sup> No person shall practice, attempt to practice, or hold  
25 himself out as being able to practice pet grooming unless that  
26 person is licensed in accordance with the provisions of this act.

27  
28 <sup>1</sup>~~5.]~~ 6.<sup>1</sup> To be eligible to be licensed as a pet groomer, an  
29 applicant shall fulfill the following requirements:

30 a. Be at least 18 years of age;

31 b. Be of good moral character; and

32 c. Pass an examination prepared by or approved by the board to  
33 determine the applicant’s competence to practice pet grooming.

34  
35 <sup>1</sup>~~6.]~~ 7.<sup>1</sup> a. The examination required by subsection c. of  
36 section <sup>1</sup>~~5]~~ 6<sup>1</sup> of this act shall include both a practical  
37 demonstration and a written test, and shall be consistent in both  
38 practical and technical requirements.

39 b. The examination required by subsection c. of section <sup>1</sup>~~5]~~ 6<sup>1</sup>  
40 of this act shall be held within the State at least four times a year at  
41 a time and place to be determined by the board. The board may  
42 contract or otherwise arrange for reasonably required physical  
43 accommodations and facilities to conduct examinations.

44 c. The board may, by regulation, establish standards and  
45 procedures to provide that the written test be offered via the Internet  
46 and the practical demonstration portion of the examination be

1 offered throughout the year to an applicant under the aegis of a  
2 licensed pet groomer.

3  
4 <sup>1</sup>~~7.~~ 8.<sup>1</sup> No person, firm, corporation, partnership or other  
5 legal entity shall operate, maintain or use premises at which courses  
6 of instruction in pet grooming are offered to registered students  
7 without first having secured a school license from the board. All  
8 educational programs and courses offered at school premises shall  
9 be conducted by persons holding pet groomer licenses. <sup>2</sup>~~The board~~  
10 shall develop the pet grooming curriculum to be used in the schools  
11 and shall collaborate with schools to utilize and incorporate  
12 industry best practices and standards.<sup>2</sup>

13  
14 <sup>1</sup>~~8.~~ 9.<sup>1</sup> a. All pet groomer and school licenses shall be  
15 issued for a two-year period and shall be renewed upon filing of a  
16 renewal application.

17 b. All applicants shall pay a fee <sup>1</sup>~~of \$75~~<sup>1</sup> for licensure or <sup>1</sup>~~\$50~~  
18 ~~for~~<sup>1</sup> renewal of licensure under this act. <sup>1</sup>~~Fees shall be determined~~  
19 ~~by the board and established by regulation. The revenue generated~~  
20 ~~from these fees shall not exceed the operating costs incurred by the~~  
21 ~~board in administering this act.~~ **]**

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

25 d. The board shall establish standards for continuing education,  
26 including the subject matter and content of courses of study, and the  
27 number and type of continuing education credits required of a  
28 licensee as a condition of biennial license renewal.<sup>1</sup>

29  
30 <sup>1</sup>~~9.~~ 10.<sup>1</sup> The provisions of this act shall not apply to:

31 a. A registered student in a school licensed by the board if the  
32 student is performing grooming services under appropriate  
33 supervision at the school in which they are enrolled; <sup>1</sup>~~or~~<sup>1</sup>

34 b. An individual engaged in performing grooming services  
35 while not enrolled in a school if the individual <sup>1</sup>is at least 16 years  
36 of age and<sup>1</sup> performs those services under the direct supervision of  
37 a licensed pet groomer and while training in preparation of the pet  
38 groomer's licensing examination <sup>1</sup>; or

39 c. An individual who grooms a dog or cat in the course of  
40 preparing it for a dog show, cat show, or other competitive event<sup>1</sup>.

41  
42 <sup>1</sup>~~10.~~ 11.<sup>1</sup> a. No business shall engage in <sup>2</sup>pet grooming as a  
43 business service<sup>2</sup> or advertise or hold itself out as offering pet  
44 grooming services unless the business is <sup>1</sup>currently<sup>1</sup> registered with  
45 the board <sup>1</sup>and meets all the requirements of this act<sup>1</sup>.

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

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

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

9 (3) Proof of general liability insurance or <sup>1</sup>**[a]** an unconditional  
10 irrevocable<sup>1</sup> letter of credit of a type and amount required by the  
11 board by regulation; and

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

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

19

20 <sup>1</sup>**[11.] 12.**<sup>1</sup> No business shall engage in <sup>2</sup>pet grooming as a  
21 business service<sup>2</sup> or offer pet grooming services unless the business,  
22 as determined by the board by regulation, complies with the  
23 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. Sufficient lighting shall be provided to facilitate the cleaning  
29 of pets and facilities;

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

32 d. An adequate water supply shall be available for drinking;  
33 and

34 e. Drying cages <sup>1</sup>that use a heat element<sup>1</sup> shall not be utilized  
35 <sup>1</sup>unless the owner of the pet grants written prior consent to the use  
36 of drying cages for the pet and the business has notified the owner  
37 of the danger and risk associated with the use of drying cages prior  
38 to the owner granting written consent to the business.

39 Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection a. of this section,  
40 two pets not in the grooming process, who are owned by the same  
41 owner, may be caged in a structurally sound and clean cage large  
42 enough to allow each pet to make normal postural adjustments,  
43 including sitting, standing, and turning around<sup>1</sup>.

44

45 <sup>1</sup>**[12.] 13.**<sup>1</sup> Every pet grooming business shall maintain a pet  
46 incident <sup>1</sup>**[file] report**<sup>1</sup> to be submitted <sup>1</sup>**[annually]**<sup>1</sup> to the board  
47 <sup>1</sup>no later than 10 days after the date of the incident<sup>1</sup>, in a form as

1 may be prescribed by the board <sup>1</sup>[, which shall contain the  
2 following information:

- 3 a. Pet injuries sustained while at the facility that required  
4 veterinary contact;  
5 b. Severe pet illnesses;  
6 c. Veterinary treatment plans relevant to pet grooming  
7 procedures and processes;  
8 d. Pet deaths; and  
9 e. Pet escapes<sup>1</sup> .

10 For the purposes of this section, "incident" means any event in  
11 which the skin of any pet or person is broken, a pet sustains an  
12 injury of any kind during the course of a grooming session, or a pet  
13 has an allergic reaction during the course of a grooming session<sup>1</sup>.

14

15 <sup>1</sup>[13.] 14.<sup>1</sup> The board may suspend <sup>1</sup>[or] <sup>1</sup> ,<sup>1</sup> revoke <sup>1</sup> , or fail to  
16 renew<sup>1</sup> the registration of any business offering pet grooming upon  
17 proof showing by a preponderance of the evidence that the business:

- 18 a. <sup>1</sup>[Has made] Made<sup>1</sup> false or misleading statements of a  
19 material nature in the application <sup>1</sup>or renewal<sup>1</sup> for registration;  
20 b. Failed to demonstrate that each employee of the employer  
21 who is engaged in the performance of pet grooming is in possession  
22 of a license to practice pet grooming;  
23 c. Failed to demonstrate proof of having general liability  
24 insurance or <sup>1</sup>[a] an unconditional irrevocable<sup>1</sup> letter of credit of a  
25 type and amount required by the board; or  
26 d. Failed to comply with the provisions of section <sup>1</sup>[11 or]<sup>1</sup> 12  
27 or 13<sup>1</sup> of this act.

28

29 <sup>1</sup>[14.] 15.<sup>1</sup> a. Every holder of a license or registration issued by  
30 the board shall display it to the public <sup>1</sup>in a conspicuous place<sup>1</sup> at  
31 the location for which it was issued.

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

34 <sup>1</sup>c. Any license or registration that is suspended, revoked, or not  
35 renewed shall be removed from the premises of the location for  
36 which it was issued.<sup>1</sup>

37

38 <sup>1</sup>[15.] 16.<sup>1</sup> a. The board shall establish and undertake a public  
39 information campaign to educate and inform the consumers of this  
40 State of the provisions of this act. The public information campaign  
41 shall include, but not be limited to, the preparation, printing, and  
42 distribution of booklets, pamphlets or other written pertinent  
43 information.

44 b. The board shall provide a toll-free telephone number for  
45 consumers making inquiries or complaints regarding pet groomers  
46 or pet grooming businesses.

1       <sup>1</sup>**[16. This]** 17. Sections 3 and 4 of this<sup>1</sup> act shall take effect  
2       <sup>1</sup>immediately. The remaining sections of this act shall take effect<sup>1</sup>  
3       on the 360th day next following enactment, but the <sup>1</sup>New Jersey<sup>1</sup>  
4       State Board of <sup>1</sup>**[Veterinary Medical Examiners]** Pet Groomers<sup>1</sup>  
5       may take <sup>1</sup>**[such]** any<sup>1</sup> anticipatory <sup>1</sup>**[acts]** action<sup>1</sup> in advance of  
6       that date as may be necessary for the timely implementation of this  
7       act.