



Alaska State Legislature

Representative Matt Claman

Session: State Capitol, Rm 118 Juneau, AK 99801 Phone: 465-4919
Interim: 1500 W. Benson Blvd., Anch, AK 99503 Phone: 269-0130

House Bill 222 Sponsor Statement

An Act relating to the licensure of nail technicians; and providing for an effective date.

House Bill 222 amends AS 08.13.030 by clarifying the grandfather clause, which allows individuals who held a manicurists' license prior to December 2015 to forego the 250 hours of instruction in manicuring required of new applicants. They will still be required to prove 250 hours of prior work experience as a manicurist and take an examination.

The current rules for nail technicians are outlined in House Bill 131, which the 29th Alaska Legislature passed in 2015. The House Labor & Commerce Committee intended to include a grandfather clause in statute. The bill was amended on the House Floor to add a grandfather clause. However, the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers interpreted the passed bill to have a temporary, confusing grandfather clause. The following is now required of experienced manicurists seeking to renew their license:

- By August 31, 2017, proof of 250 hours of work as a manicurist
- By August 31, 2017, take and pass a written or oral examination

After one renewal period, however, an experienced manicurists is nevertheless required to take 250 hours of educational coursework to receive a "nail technician" license after a two-year grandfathered license that does not require the coursework. HB 222 seeks to remove the education requirement for people who were already licensed and working under statutes prior to December 31st, 2015.

Requiring 250 hours of coursework, or essentially six weeks to two months of fulltime effort, could mean these experienced, working manicurists might not be able to work. Many of the individuals who would be affected are "Mom-n-Pop" business owners or single mothers. Requiring this training for persons who have been practicing successfully for years could have detrimental impacts on their finances and families.

In addition, HB 222 extends the deadline for completing the exam from this year, to 2019, with a provision of intent that the Board of Barbers and Hairdressers alter the exam to make it accessible to people who may not speak one of the four languages in which the test is currently offered: English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Korean.

It is the intention of HB 222 is to remove the unnecessary burden of educational training hours for experienced manicurists who practiced prior to December 31st, 2015 and extend equal opportunity to individuals who may have difficulty with language barriers.