

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas As Engrossed: H3/15/23 H3/27/23

2 94th General Assembly

# A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2023

HOUSE BILL 1576

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5 By: Representative Scott

6 By: Senator B. Davis

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## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE CREATING A RESPECTFUL AND  
10 OPEN WORLD FOR NATURAL HAIR (CROWN) ACT; TO PROHIBIT  
11 DISCRIMINATION BASED UPON NATURAL, PROTECTIVE, OR  
12 CULTURAL HAIRSTYLE IN *PUBLIC* SCHOOLS AND IN STATE-  
13 SUPPORTED TWO-YEAR OR FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS OF  
14 HIGHER EDUCATION; TO ADD DEFINITIONS TO THE ARKANSAS  
15 CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1993; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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## Subtitle

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

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This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Creating a Respectful  
and Open World for Natural Hair (CROWN) Act".

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SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 10, is amended to add an  
additional section to read as follows:

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6-10-137. Discrimination based on natural, protective, or cultural  
hairstyle in public schools prohibited - Definition.

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(a) As used in this section, "natural, protective, or cultural  
hairstyle" includes without limitation afros, dreadlocks, twists, locs,  
braids, cornrow braids, Bantu knots, curls, and hair styled to protect hair



1 texture or for cultural significance.

2 (b) A school district administrator, board member, teacher, or other  
3 employee shall not discriminate against a student based upon the student's  
4 natural, protective, or cultural hairstyle.

5 (c) The Division of Youth Services is exempt from this section.

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7 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 61, Subchapter 1, is amended  
8 to add an additional section to read as follows:

9 6-61-142. Discrimination based on natural, protective, or cultural  
10 hairstyle in higher education prohibited - Definition.

11 (a) As used in this section, "natural, protective, or cultural  
12 hairstyle" includes without limitation afros, dreadlocks, twists, locs,  
13 braids, cornrow braids, Bantu knots, curls, and hair styled to protect hair  
14 texture or for cultural significance.

15 (b) A state-supported two-year or four-year institution of higher  
16 education shall not discriminate against a student based upon the student's  
17 natural, protective, or cultural hairstyle.

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19 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 16-123-102, concerning definitions within  
20 the Arkansas Civil Rights Act of 1993, is amended to add additional  
21 subdivisions to read as follows:

22 (9) "Because of national origin" includes without limitation on  
23 account of a natural, protective, or cultural hairstyle;

24 (10) "Because of race" includes without limitation on account of  
25 a natural, protective, or cultural hairstyle;

26 (11) "Ethnic animosity" includes without limitation on account  
27 of a natural, protective, or cultural hairstyle;

28 (12) "Natural, protective, or cultural hairstyle" includes  
29 without limitation afros, dreadlocks, twists, locs, braids, cornrow braids,  
30 Bantu knots, curls, and hair styled to protect hair texture or for cultural  
31 significance; and

32 (13) "Racial animosity" includes without limitation on account  
33 of a natural, protective, or cultural hairstyle.

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35 /s/Scott