

HB 126

What is a weft?

A weft is an important cultural hair practice, particularly amongst the African-American community. It involves extending a hairstyle by interweaving a collection of hair strands called the "weft". This practice does not involve cutting or treating the hair with chemicals, simply interweaving more hair.



What do the courts say?

On August 8, 2012, the United States District Court for the District of Utah found in Clayton v. Steinagel that using Utah's cosmetology/barbering licensing scheme to prevent Jestina Clayton from practicing African hair braiding violated her constitutionally protected rights. The court found that the cosmology licensing program was vastly irrelevant to the practice of African hair weaving. Utah was ordered to pay for her attorney fees.

Utah as an outlier.

Currently 30 states do not license braiders (including Utah). Of those thirty, Utah is the only state that restricts the use of wefts in braiding. Utah is the **ONLY** state that allows unlicensed braiders, but does not allow wefts in their braiding. This bill would make Utah's laws more consistent with the current national practice of not requiring licensing for wefts.

