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Not Quite an Extreme Makeover, But House Bill 2105 Brings Oregon’s Esthetics Law into Current Practice

Salem, OR, January 31, 2006—Since 1987, Oregon’s licensed estheticians have been allowed to provide skin care services only from the neck up—more precisely, from the seventh vertebra and above.

To more closely align statutory language with current industry practice and the original intent of the law, the Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA) introduced legislation, House Bill 2105, in 2005 to remove the seventh vertebra from the statutory definition of esthetics, formerly *facial technology*.

In addition to allowing for full-body skin care services, HB 2105 also changed the cosmetology scope of practice title for skin care services to *esthetics* to follow a national, and worldwide, trend toward using the more generally acknowledged professional term.

Governor Ted Kulongoski signed HB 2105 into law on June 6 of last year. It became effective on January 1, 2006. The change allows estheticians to provide skin care services on the entire body. Such services as body wraps—not previously regulated—will be so under the revised cosmetology law, Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 690.007.

“Skin care is skin care, whether it’s above or below the seventh vertebra,” says OHLA Agency Director Susan K. Wilson. “We have simply allowed licensed professionals to legally provide additional skin care services that consumers seem to want while also providing more consumer protection.”

HB 2105 does not expand the existing scope of practice but rather clarifies what was always intended to be part of that practice, according to Wilson.

More than 18,000 esthetics certifications are currently issued in Oregon. Applicants are required to take 250 course hours specific to their scope of practice, 150 hours of safety and infection control, and 100 hours in career development at private career schools licensed by the Department of Education. They must also pass state-administered written and practical examinations to become licensed to practice.

Please visit www.oregon.gov/OHLA for more information on the OHLA central agency and on cosmetology requirements in Oregon.

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