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# The CROWN Act

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Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website ([ctas.tennessee.edu](http://ctas.tennessee.edu)). This website is maintained by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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# The CROWN Act

Reference Number: CTAS-2482

The CROWN Act prohibits employers from adopting a policy which does not allow employees to wear the employee's hair in braids, locs, twists, or another manner that is part of the cultural identification of the employee's ethnic group. A policy adopted in violation of this law is discriminatory and void.

The law does not create a private cause of action. An employee may file a complaint with the department of labor and workforce development. The department will provide a warning to an employer in violation of this section.

The law does not apply to a public safety employee if it would prevent the employee from performing the essential functions of the employee's job and does not apply to a policy that an employer must adopt to adhere to safety standards, or to comply with federal or state laws, rules, and regulations relative to health or safety.

T. C. A. § 50-1-313.

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**Source URL:** <https://www.ctas.tennessee.edu/eli/crown-act>