GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

May 7, 2020

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
7:55AM O'CLOCK
MAY 07 2020
Secretary of State

The Honorable Ruth R. Hughs
Secretary of State
State Capitol Room 1E.8
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Secretary Hughs:

Pursuant to his powers as Governor of the State of Texas, Greg Abbott has issued the following:

Executive Order No. GA-22 relating to confinement during the COVID-19 disaster.

The original executive order is attached to this letter of transmittal.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory S. Davidson
Executive Clerk to the Governor

GSD/gsd

Attachment

Executive Order

BY THE
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Executive Department
Austin, Texas
May 7, 2020

EXECUTIVE ORDER
GA 22

Relating to confinement during the COVID-19 disaster.

WHEREAS, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, issued a disaster proclamation on March 13, 2020, certifying under Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code that the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) poses an imminent threat of disaster for all counties in the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, on April 12, 2020, I issued a proclamation renewing the disaster declaration for all counties in Texas; and

WHEREAS, I have issued executive orders and suspensions of Texas laws in response to COVID-19, aimed at protecting the health and safety of Texans and ensuring an effective response to this disaster; and

WHEREAS, effective April 2, 2020, Executive Order GA-14 mandated certain social-distancing restrictions and other obligations for Texans that were aimed at slowing the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on May 5, 2020, I issued Executive Order GA-21 to expand the services reopened in Texas to include cosmetology salons, hair salons, barber shops, nail salons/shops, and other establishments where licensed cosmetologists or barbers practice their trade; and

WHEREAS, in coping with the COVID-19 disaster, and especially as services are being reopened in Texas in a safe, strategic manner, government officials should look for the least restrictive means of combatting the threat to public health; and

WHEREAS, the "governor is responsible for meeting … the dangers to the state and people presented by disasters" under Section 418.011 of the Texas Government Code, and the legislature has given the governor broad authority to fulfill that responsibility; and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.012, the "governor may issue executive orders … hav[ing] the force and effect of law;" and

WHEREAS, under Section 418.017(a), the "governor may use all available resources of state government and of political subdivisions that are reasonably necessary to cope with a disaster."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, by virtue of the power and

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
7:55AM O'CLOCK

MAY 07 2020

authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, do hereby order the following on a statewide basis effective immediately:

Executive Order GA-21, as it pertains to cosmetology salons, hair salons, barber shops, nail salons/shops, and other establishments where licensed cosmetologists or barbers practice their trade, is hereby amended to immediately reopen, retroactive to April 2, 2020, such salons, shops, and establishments to the extent necessary to supersede and nullify the existence of any prior or existing state or local executive order, the violation of which could form the basis for confinement in jail. To the extent any order issued by local officials in response to COVID-19 would allow confinement in jail of a person inconsistent with Executive Order GA-21 or this executive order, that order is hereby superseded retroactive to April 2, 2020.

All existing executive orders relating to COVID-19 are hereby amended to eliminate confinement in jail as an available penalty for any violation of the executive orders. No jurisdiction can confine a person in jail as a penalty for violating any executive order, or any order issued by local officials, in response to the COVID-19 disaster. To the extent any order issued by local officials in response to the COVID-19 disaster would allow confinement in jail, that order is hereby superseded, and I hereby suspend all relevant laws to the extent necessary to ensure that local officials do not confine people in jail for violating any order issued in response to the COVID-19 disaster. This amendment and suspension operates retroactively to April 2, 2020, and supersedes any contrary local or state order.

This executive order shall remain in effect and in full force until modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by the governor.

Given under my hand this the 7th day of May, 2020.

GREG ABBOTT
Governor

ATTESTED BY:

RUTH R. HUGHS
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
7:55 AM O'CLOCK

MAY 07 2020