

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 478 (SB 223)

2016 Regular Session

Claitor

Prior law provided relative to the La. Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.

Prior law provided relative to qualifications for licensure of audiologists and speech-language pathologists. New law revises certain qualifications, including that an audiologist hold doctoral degree or equivalent.

Prior law provided for board's duties and powers. New law retains these provisions but adds additional powers.

New law provides certain definitions.

New law authorizes the board to require an applicant, as a condition of eligibility for licensure, to do the following:

- (1) To submit a full set of fingerprints, in a form and manner prescribed by the board.
- (2) To permit the board to request and obtain state and national criminal history record information on the applicant.
- (3) To pay the reasonable costs to be incurred by the board in requesting and obtaining state and national criminal history record information on the applicant.

New law requires the board to request and obtain state and national criminal history record information from the La. Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information of the office of state police within the Department of Public Safety and Corrections ("bureau") and the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") relative to any applicant for licensure whose fingerprints the board has obtained pursuant to law for the purpose of determining the applicant's suitability and eligibility for licensure.

New law provides that upon request by the board and upon the board's submission of an applicant's fingerprints, and such other identifying information as may be required, the bureau must survey its criminal history records and identification files and make a simultaneous request of the FBI for like information from other jurisdictions. The bureau may charge the board a reasonable processing fee for conducting and reporting on any such search.

New law provides that any and all state or national criminal history record information obtained by the board from the bureau or FBI which is not already a matter of public record will be deemed nonpublic and confidential information restricted to the exclusive use by the board, its members, officers, investigators, agents, and attorneys in evaluating the applicant's eligibility or disqualification for licensure. No such information or records related thereto will, except with the written consent of the applicant or by order of a court of competent jurisdiction, be released or otherwise disclosed by the board to any other person or agency.

New law provides that upon investigation of the application and other evidence submitted, the board will notify each applicant that the application and evidence submitted for consideration is satisfactory and accepted, or unsatisfactory and rejected. If an application is rejected, such notice will state the reasons for such rejection and the applicant's right to a compliance hearing in accordance with the rules and regulations promulgated by the board.

Effective August 1, 2016.

(Amends R.S. 37:2659; adds R.S. 37:2659.1)