

GREEN SHEET REDIGEST

HB 498

2020 Regular Session

Emerson

**LICENSING: Provides relative to occupational license and examination fee waiver and payment plan for qualified individuals**

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DIGEST

Proposed law requires licensing boards to waive certain fees for applicants who meet either of the following criteria:

- (1) Receiving public assistance.
- (2) Earning less than 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, unless the applicant has been in an undergraduate or graduate school full time and therefore unable to work.

Proposed law requires licensing boards to inform applicants that they may be eligible for a fee waiver by placing notification on the application, and to provide instructions on how the applicant can request further information.

Proposed law requires licensing boards to offer payment plans to all qualified applicants.

Proposed law stipulates that fees paid by the payment plans are not to exceed the amount of fees charged for applicants paying the full price of exam or licensing.

Proposed law requires an individual who is in good standing with the licensing board and has been provided a payment plan to pay the account in full within 12 months of the first scheduled payment. Provides that failure to remit payment in full within the 12-month period shall result in denial of license renewal for the individual.

Proposed law only applies to licensing agencies who directly administer their own examinations.

Effective June 30, 2021.

(Adds R.S. 37:23.4)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Commerce to the original bill:

- 1. Add an exception for applicants who have been in an undergraduate or graduate school full time and unable to work.
- 2. Require the licensing board to place notification on their application, in order to make applicants aware that they may qualify for a fee waiver.
- 3. Require applicants who are on a payment plan to pay off the account within 12 months of the initial scheduled payment or risk being denied a renewal of their license.
- 4. Limit the applicability of the proposed law to licensing boards who directly administer their own examinations.
- 5. Add an effective date of June 30, 2021.
- 6. Make technical changes.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Make technical changes.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs to the reengrossed bill

1. Add a requirement that an individual who has been provided a payment plan be in good standing with the licensing board.
2. Change from permitting the board to deny the renewal of a license to an individual who fails to remit payment in accordance with terms of the payment plan to requiring such.