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## DIGEST

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HB 768 Engrossed

2022 Regular Session

Marino

**Abstract:** Increases the number of marijuana pharmacy licenses that the La. Board of Pharmacy may issue and provides criteria for the selection of new licensees.

Present law limits the number of specialty marijuana pharmacy licenses that the La. Board of Pharmacy (board) may issue to no more than 10. Proposed law increases this limit from 10 to 25.

Proposed law provides that after Aug. 1, 2022, the board shall not issue a marijuana pharmacy license to any applicant who does not meet at least one of the following criteria:

- (1) The applicant is a resident of this state and resided in this state for the entirety of the five-year period immediately preceding the date of his application.
- (2) The applicant had, for the entirety of the five-year period immediately preceding the date of his application, an ownership interest of at least 51% of the total ownership of the property on which the marijuana pharmacy will be located.

Proposed law stipulates that in issuing marijuana pharmacy licenses after Aug. 1, 2022, the board shall ensure that at least 30% of the total number of such licenses issued are held by women- or minority-owned businesses.

Proposed law requires the board to begin accepting applications for the new marijuana pharmacy licenses authorized by proposed law on Oct. 1, 2022.

(Amends R.S. 40:1046(G))

### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill:

1. Make technical and clarifying changes to the criteria provided in proposed law for applicants to whom the board may issue new marijuana pharmacy licenses after Aug. 1, 2022.
2. Delete proposed law prohibiting marijuana pharmacy licensees from selling or transferring their licenses to certain parties; retain present law providing that marijuana

pharmacy licenses are nontransferable.

3. Provide that in issuing marijuana pharmacy licenses after Aug. 1, 2022, the board shall ensure that at least 30% of the total number of such licenses issued are held by women- or minority-owned businesses.
4. Require the La. Board of Pharmacy to begin accepting applications for new marijuana pharmacy licenses on Oct. 1, 2022.