

GREEN SHEET REDIGEST

HB 679

2024 Regular Session

Riser

LICENSING: Provides relative to auctioneers.

DIGEST

Present law provides for definitions.

Proposed law amends the definition for "internet-based platform".

Present law provides the requirements that the board shall base determination of satisfactory minimum qualifications for licensure of an entity as an auction business.

Proposed law adds the requirements that the applicant for licensure, excluding those who conduct wholesale motor vehicle auctions, shall designate a qualifying party who shall be the legal representative for the auction business relative to the provisions of present and proposed law.

Proposed law provides that the board may deny approval of the qualifying party for good cause, which may include the ability of the proposed principal owner or owners, principal shareholder or shareholders, or qualifying party to engage in the auction business as demonstrated by his prior auction business experience. Evidence which may be considered by the board shall be limited to any legal proceedings against the qualifying party or businesses where the qualifying party was in a position of control at the time a problem arose and the ultimate disposition of such proceedings, any financial history of bankruptcies, unpaid judgments, insolvencies, or any similar evidence.

Proposed law provides that when the qualifying party terminates employment with the licensee, the board shall be notified in writing within 30 days of the disassociation and another qualifying party must qualify within 60 days.

Proposed law provides that the qualifying party or parties are any individual licensed as an auctioneer pursuant to the requirements in present law and proposed law and are one or more of the following:

- (1) An applicant sole proprietor or spouse of an applicant sole proprietor.
- (2) Any employee of an applicant who has been in full-time employment for one hundred twenty consecutive days immediately preceding the application. The employee may be allowed to be the qualifying party for the licensed company and related entities.
- (3) Any stockholder, officer, or director of an applicant corporation.
- (4) Any partner of an applicant partnership.
- (5) Any member or manager of an applicant limited liability company.

Proposed law provides that if the entity intends to conduct auctions wherein vehicles will be auctioned as defined by present law, the entity must hold a valid dealer license pursuant to present law unless a valid dealer license is not required by the regulating agency.

Present law provides that an applicant for licensure of an entity as an auction business shall submit the information on an application form designated by the board.

Proposed law adds that a copy of the auctioneer license of the qualifying party and a copy of the dealer license for those entities conducting auctions of vehicles, if such license is required, shall be included on the application form.

Present law provides that except as otherwise provided in present law, each applicant for licensure as a resident auctioneer, apprentice auctioneer, or auction business shall deliver to and deposit with the board at the time of application either the sum of \$10,000 in cash or a surety bond in the amount of \$10,000.

Proposed law amends present law that each applicant for licensure as an auctioneer or apprentice auctioneer shall deliver to and deposit with the board at the time of application either the sum of \$10,000 in cash or a surety bond in the amount of \$10,000.

Proposed law adds that each applicant for licensure as an auction business shall deliver to and deposit with the board at the time of application either the sum of \$25,000 in cash or a surety bond in the amount of \$25,000.

Present law provides that the board may promulgate rules to require a cash deposit or surety bond not to exceed \$10,000 as a condition of reinstatement of a license revoked, canceled, suspended, or otherwise restricted pursuant to present law.

Proposed law amends present law to state that the board may promulgate rules to require a cash deposit or surety bond not to exceed an amount equal to proposed law as a condition of reinstatement of a license revoked, canceled, suspended, or otherwise restricted pursuant to present law.

Present law provides that a licensed resident auctioneer shall not be required to deposit with the board an additional cash amount or an additional surety bond upon application for licensure as an auction business.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law provides that an auction business which is owned by a nonresident auctioneer shall, prior to being licensed by the board, post a surety bond in an amount which shall be the greater of either \$10,000 or the amount of the bond required of an auction business owned by an auctioneer licensed in this state in the licensing jurisdiction of such nonresident auctioneer. Such bond shall name the board as beneficiary.

Proposed law amends present law to apply to a business owned by a nonresident auctioneer which received its license through reciprocity. Proposed law also changes the bond required from \$10,000 to \$25,000.

Effective January 1, 2025.

(Amends R.S. 37:3103(A)(8) and 3118(A)(1)(intro. para.), (B), and (D)(1)(intro. para.) and (a); adds R.S. 37:3113(B)(3) and (4) and (D)(1)(f) and (g); repeals R.S. 37:3118(A)(4))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Make technical changes.
2. Remove definitions for soft and hard closing auctions.
3. Amend definition for internet-based platform.
4. Change exclusion in language from hard closing auction to wholesale vehicle auctions.
5. Change reference of incorporator to director.
6. Remove language on hard closing auctions.

7. Clarify that if an entity conducts an auction with vehicles, it does not need a valid dealer license if not required by the regulating agency.
8. Clarify that a copy of a dealer license is needed for conducting auctions with vehicles if license is required.
9. Change the deposit needed for the board from \$50,000 to \$25,000.
10. Reinstate repealed proposed law and amend it relative to a business owned by a nonresident auctioneer which receives its license through the reciprocity provision.
11. Change the amount a business owned by a nonresident auctioneer has to pay in bond from \$10,000 to \$25,000.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

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

1. Provide an effective date of January 1, 2025.