

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT
Senate Bill No. 456 By Senator Allain

May 30, 2014

To the Honorable President and Members of the Senate and to the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, the conferees appointed to confer over the disagreement between the two houses concerning Senate Bill No. 456 by Senator Allain, recommend the following concerning the Engrossed bill:

1. That the House Committee Amendments Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs and adopted by the House of Representatives on May 19, 2014 be rejected.

Respectfully submitted,

Senators:

Representatives:

Senator R.L. Bret Allain, II

Representative Gordon Dove

Senator "Jody" Amedee

Representative Timothy G. Burns

Senator Norby Chabert

Representative Robert E. Billiot

The legislative instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Ashley E. Menou.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

Senate Bill No. 456 by Senator Allain

Keyword and summary of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee

ETHICS. Provides relative to application of nepotism provisions to certain hospital service districts. (gov sig)

Report rejects House amendments which would have:

1. Deleted the exception that specifically applied to hospital service districts in a parish with a population of between 400,000 and 440,000 persons and to hospital public trust authorities located in these districts.

Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee

Present law (R.S. 42:1119 - Code of Governmental Ethics) relative to nepotism, prohibits a governmental entity from employing an immediate family member of a member of a governing authority or of the chief executive of the governmental entity.

Present law provides an exception for any hospital district with a population of 100,000 persons or less or hospital public trust authority located in such a district. Provides that such a district or authority may enter into an initial recruiting contract with or employ as a health care provider, a licensed physician, a registered nurse, or an allied health professional who is a member of the immediate family of any district board, authority, or parish governing authority member or of the chief executive of the district or authority if such family member is the only qualified applicant who has applied for the position after it has been advertised as provided by present law.

Present law further provides an additional substantially similar exception applicable in hospital service districts in a parish with a population of between 400,000 and 440,000 persons and to hospital public trust authorities located in such districts; however, this exception provides that the immediate family member must merely be a qualified applicant, not the only qualified applicant.

Present law requires recusal from decisions involving the promotion, discipline, discharge, or assignment of any such employee and annual disclosure of the facts of such employment.

Proposed law provides that the exception in present law is applicable to any hospital service district. Otherwise retains present law.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 42:1119(B)(2)(b)(i))