

Prior law (R.S. 42:1119 - Code of Governmental Ethics) relative to nepotism, prohibited 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.

Prior law provided 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. Provided 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 prior law.

Prior law further provided 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.

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

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

Effective upon signature of the governor (June 23, 2014).

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