

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 626 (HB 445)

2018 Regular Session

Stokes

Existing law creates the five-member La. Licensed Professional Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors Board of Examiners, referred to hereafter as the "board".

Prior law provided that the members of the board be appointed by the governor from a list of candidates supplied by the La. Association of Rehabilitation Professionals. Provided further that the membership of the board consisted of three licensed professional vocational rehabilitation counselors and two individuals from the public at large.

New law updates the name of the professional association which supplies the list of candidates for the board from "La. Association of Rehabilitation Professionals" to "International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals-La".

With respect to the membership of the board, new law does all of the following:

- (1) Increases the number of licensed professional vocational rehabilitation counselors serving on the board from three to four.
- (2) Deletes prior law providing that two members of the five-member board shall be individuals from the public at large.
- (3) Provides that one member of the board shall be a consumer member.

New law provides that the consumer member of the board shall be selected from the state at large and shall possess all of the following qualifications:

- (1) Is a citizen of the U.S. and has been a resident of La. for at least one year immediately prior to appointment.
- (2) Has attained the age of majority.
- (3) Has never been licensed by any of the healthcare professional licensing boards created in existing law, nor shall he have a spouse who has ever been licensed by one of those boards.
- (4) Has never been convicted of a felony.
- (5) Does not have and has never had a material financial interest in the healthcare profession.

New law provides that the consumer member shall be a full voting member of the board with all rights and privileges conferred on board members, except that the consumer member shall not participate in the grading of individual examinations.

Prior law required the board to adopt the Code of Ethics of the National Association for Rehabilitation Professionals in the Private Sector. New law requires the board to adopt the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification Code of Professional Ethics.

Effective August 1, 2018.

(Amends R.S. 37:3444(A)-(C) and 3445(D))