

## SENATE SUMMARY OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SB 131

2026 Regular Session

Pressly

## KEYWORD AND SUMMARY AS RETURNED TO THE SENATE

ATTORNEYS: Provides for limitations on recovery of attorney fees and costs in occupational licensing board disciplinary hearings. (8/1/26)

## SUMMARY OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO THE SENATE BILL

1. Provides that when a professional or occupational board initiates a disciplinary proceeding against a licensee and the final disposition of the proceeding results in a consent order, judgment, or finding in which the licensee is the prevailing party, the board shall not collect from the licensee any attorney fees or costs incurred by the board after a written offer of judgment.

## DIGEST OF THE SENATE BILL AS RETURNED TO THE SENATE

SB 131 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Pressly

Present law (R.S. 37:21(B)) provides that the provisions of present law (R.S. 37:21) do not apply to certain professional or occupational licensing boards.

Proposed law provides that the provisions of present law (R.S. 37:21(A)) do not apply to certain professional or occupational licensing boards.

Proposed law provides that when a professional or occupational board initiates a disciplinary proceeding against a licensee and the final disposition of the proceeding results in a consent order, judgment, or finding in which the licensee is the prevailing party, the board shall not collect from the licensee any attorney fees or costs incurred by the board after a written offer of judgment.

Proposed law provides that a licensee is deemed the prevailing party when either of the following occur:

- (1) The licensee made a written offer of judgment, and the matter is subsequently terminated, dismissed, or resolved without an adverse finding against the licensee.

The consent order, judgment, or finding results in a disposition more favorable to the licensee than the terms previously offered by the licensee pursuant to proposed law.

- (2) A result is considered more favorable to the licensee under any of the following circumstances:

- (i) The licensee offered a suspension period, and the final consent order, judgment, or finding imposes a suspension period shorter than or equal to that offered by the licensee.

- (ii) The licensee offered a probationary period, and the final consent order, judgment, or finding imposes a probationary period shorter than or equal to that offered by the licensee.

- (iii) The licensee offered payment of a monetary fine, and the final consent order, judgment, or finding imposes only a monetary fine in an amount less than or equal to that offered by the licensee.

- (iv) The licensee offered a suspension of licensure, and the final consent order, judgment, or finding imposes no suspension of licensure, regardless of whether the final disposition includes a fine, probation, or both. For purposes of proposed law, one day of suspension shall be deemed equivalent to fifteen days of probation when comparing disciplinary sanctions that include both suspension and probationary periods.

- (v) The final consent order, judgment, or finding imposes a combined suspension and probationary period that is less severe than or equal to that offered by the licensee. For

purposes of proposed law, one day of suspension shall be deemed equivalent to fifteen days of probation when comparing disciplinary sanctions that include both suspension and probationary periods.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 37:21)