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## DIGEST

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Ponti

HB No. 421

**Abstract:** Adds a license renewal fee for certain contractors dedicated to public university and community college schools of construction management or construction technology, with an ability of the contractor to choose not to participate in the remission.

Present law provides for renewal of licenses for contractors. Allows for the licensing board for contractors to include on each license renewal form an optional election to allow for the donation of additional funds to a specified public university or community college foundation, which shall be remitted to the chosen foundation to be used solely for construction management programs.

Proposed law deletes present law with regard to optional donations and instead requires the board to assess on each license renewal for contractors an additional fee of \$100 per year to be dedicated to public university or community college schools of construction management or construction technology. Requires the board to include an optional election of the renewal form whereby the contractor may choose to not participate in the remission of the additional fee.

Proposed law further requires the schools to report to the board the number of graduates from the previous calendar year. Requires the disbursement of the funds collected to be by Aug. 1 of each year upon completion of the annual audit of the board.

Proposed law further requires that the funds be used solely for the benefit of the accredited public university or community college schools of construction management or construction technology and requires the use of the fund to be approved by the industry advisory council or board of the school. Provides that the funds shall be in addition to any other monies received by such schools. Provides that should the funding level of the schools fall below the amount of funding received in the 2012 school year, the school shall be ineligible to receive monies from the fund, unless such decrease is due to an across-the-board reduction required of all other schools within the university or community college. Distributes the funds 1/2 pro rata to each accredited public university and community college school and 1/2 pro rata to each public university school based on the total number of graduates from the previous year as reported to the board by each school.

Proposed law requires the schools to be accredited by either of two national accreditation boards and requires the schools to maintain accreditation in order to receive funding.

(Amends R.S. 37:2156(C)(3))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Commerce to the original bill.

1. Requires the board to include an optional election of the renewal form whereby the contractor may choose to not participate in the remission of the additional fee.
2. Requires the disbursement of the funds collected to be by Aug. 1 of each year upon completion of the annual audit of the board.
3. Requires the use of the fund to be approved by the industry advisory council or board of the school.
4. Allows for participation by a school when the funding level of the schools fall below the amount of funding received in the 2012 school year if such decrease is due to an across-the-board reduction required of all other schools within the university or community college.

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Makes technical changes.