

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 979

BY REPRESENTATIVES DUSTIN MILLER AND WILLMOTT

NURSES: Provides relative to functions and composition of the La. State Board of Nursing

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 37:914(B) and 927(A) and to enact R.S. 37:918.1, relative to the
3 Louisiana State Board of Nursing; to provide relative to composition, duties, and
4 powers of the board; to establish requirements relative to renewal of licenses issued
5 by the board; to authorize the board to assess upon its licensees an optional fee to
6 support continuing nursing education initiatives; to provide for dedication of
7 proceeds of the fee; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 37:914(B) and 927(A) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
10 37:918.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §914. Louisiana State Board of Nursing; appointment of members; term of office;
12 vacancy; officers; compensation

13 * * *

14 B.(1) The board shall be composed of eight registered nurses appointed by
15 the governor from a list of names submitted by the Louisiana State Nurses
16 Association, one certified registered nurse anesthetist appointed by the governor
17 from a list of names submitted by the Louisiana Association of Nurse Anesthetists,
18 Ltd., and two ~~physicians, appointed by the governor from a list of names submitted~~
19 ~~by the Louisiana State Medical Society, who shall serve as ex officio members of the~~
20 ~~board and shall serve only as advisors to the board and shall not vote~~ representatives

1 of the consumers of Louisiana from the state at-large appointed by the governor,
2 neither of whom shall be a nurse, who each possess the qualifications specified in
3 Paragraph (2) of this Subsection.

4 (2) Each consumer member of the board shall be a resident of this state who
5 meets all of the following qualifications:

6 (a) Has attained the age of majority.

7 (b) Does not engage in and never has engaged in any activity directly related
8 to the practice of nursing.

9 (c) Has never been convicted of a felony.

10 ~~(2)~~ (3) Each appointment by the governor shall be subject to Senate
11 confirmation.

12 * * *

13 §918.1. Licenses; period of validity; renewal schedule

14 Each license that the board issues pursuant to the authority provided by R.S.
15 37:918(5) shall be valid for a period of two years, and shall be renewable on or
16 before the month and day of the birth date of the licensee.

17 * * *

18 §927. Fees

19 A.(1) The board shall establish a reasonable fee schedule for the issuance or
20 renewal of any license or permit, registration services, examination fees, consultation
21 or presentation fees, or any other administrative function provided for in this Part.
22 Such fee schedule may be modified from time to time as deemed necessary by the
23 board. Such fee schedule shall include reasonable fees and administrative charges,
24 not to exceed one hundred dollars, for the issuance or renewal of any license or
25 permit for practicing as a registered nurse or an advanced practice registered nurse,
26 and shall include a late fee for issuance or renewal of any such license or permit not
27 to exceed one hundred dollars. The fee schedule set by the board may also include
28 additional fees and costs which may be assessed in disciplinary proceedings as
29 authorized by R.S. 37:925(D).

Proposed law revises present law by replacing the two nonvoting physician members of the board with two consumer representatives from the state at-large appointed by the governor, neither of whom shall be a nurse, who shall be voting members. Proposed law requires that each consumer representative member possess the following qualifications:

- (1) Has attained the age of majority.
- (2) Does not engage in and never has engaged in any activity directly related to the practice of nursing.
- (3) Has never been convicted of a felony.

Present law provides that among the duties of the board is a duty to examine, approve, renew, and reinstate licenses of duly qualified applicants.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that each license the board issues shall be valid for a period of two years, and shall be renewable on or before the month and day of the birth date of the licensee.

Present law requires the board to establish a reasonable fee schedule for the issuance or renewal of licenses and permits, and provides that the board may modify the fee schedule from time to time as it deems necessary. Provides that the fee schedule shall include reasonable fees and administrative charges, not to exceed \$100, for the issuance or renewal of any license or permit for practicing as a registered nurse or an advanced practice registered nurse.

Proposed law retains present law and authorizes the board to assess on each biennial registered nurse license renewal an additional fee of \$10 to be designated as the "continuing nursing education support fee". Provides that this fee shall be dedicated and allocated to the operation of an American Nurses Credentialing Center Continuing Nursing Education Provider Unit and Approver Unit operated by the Louisiana State Nurses Association, referred to hereafter as the "LSNA". Specifies that the objectives of these units shall be to increase the availability and improve the quality of continuing nursing education opportunities for all registered nurses in this state.

Proposed law requires the board to include on each license renewal form an optional election whereby the licensee may elect not to remit the \$10 continuing nursing education support fee.

Proposed law requires the board to disburse all monies collected pursuant to proposed law to the LSNA on or before April 1 annually. Stipulates that the LSNA shall utilize these monies solely for the purposes of operation and maintenance of the continuing nursing education units as provided in proposed law.

Proposed law provides that expenditure of monies collected pursuant to proposed law shall be subject to approval by the board of directors of the LSNA. Provides that the funds shall be in addition to any other monies received by the LSNA and are intended to supplement and not replace, displace, or supplant any other funds that the organization receives from the state or any other source.

(Amends R.S. 37:914(B) and 927(A); Adds R.S. 37:918.1)