
DIGEST

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HB 979 Original

2016 Regular Session

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Abstract: Revises the membership of the La. State Board of Nursing, provides for renewal of licenses issued by the board, and authorizes the board to institute a fee to support continuing nursing education initiatives.

Present law provides for the composition of the La. State Board of Nursing, referred to hereafter as the "board". Provides that the membership of the board includes two physicians, appointed by the governor from a list of names submitted by the La. State Medical Society, who shall serve as ex officio members of the board and shall serve only as advisors and shall not vote.

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)