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The original instrument was prepared by J. W. Wiley. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Jerry G. Jones.

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DIGEST

SB 223 Engrossed 2016 Regular Session Claitor

Present law provides relative to the La. Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.

Present law provides relative to qualifications for licensure of audiologists and speech-language pathologists. Proposed law revises certain qualifications, including that audiologist hold doctoral degree or equivalent.

Present law provides for board's duties and powers. Proposed law retains present law and adds additional powers.

Proposed law provides certain definitions.

Proposed law authorizes the board to require an applicant, as a condition of eligibility for licensure, to do the following:

- (1) To submit a full set of fingerprints, in a form and manner prescribed by the board.
- (2) To permit the board to request and obtain state and national criminal history record information on the applicant.
- (3) To pay the reasonable costs to be incurred by the board in requesting and obtaining state and national criminal history record information on the applicant.

Proposed law requires the board to request and obtain state and national criminal history record information from the Louisiana Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information of the office of state police within the Department of Public Safety and Corrections ("bureau") and the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") relative to any applicant for licensure whose fingerprints the board has obtained pursuant to law for the purpose of determining the applicant's suitability and eligibility for licensure.

Proposed law provides that upon request by the board and upon the board's submission of an applicant's fingerprints, and such other identifying information as may be required, the bureau must survey its criminal history records and identification files and make a simultaneous request of the FBI for like information from other jurisdictions. The bureau may charge the board a reasonable processing fee for conducting and reporting on any such search.

Proposed law provides that any and all state or national criminal history record information obtained

by the board from the bureau or FBI which is not already a matter of public record will be deemed nonpublic and confidential information restricted to the exclusive use by the board, its members, officers, investigators, agents, and attorneys in evaluating the applicant's eligibility or disqualification for licensure. No such information or records related thereto will, except with the written consent of the applicant or by order of a court of competent jurisdiction, be released or otherwise disclosed by the board to any other person or agency.

Proposed law provides that upon investigation of the application and other evidence submitted, the board will notify each applicant that the application and evidence submitted for consideration is satisfactory and accepted, or unsatisfactory and rejected. If an application is rejected, such notice will state the reasons for such rejection and the applicant's right to a compliance hearing in accordance with the rules and regulations promulgated by the board.

Effective August 1, 2016.

(Amends R.S. 37:2659; adds R.S. 37:2659.1)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

##### Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and International Affairs to the original bill

1. Added revisions to certain qualifications for licensure.