

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 335

BY REPRESENTATIVE HENRY BURNS

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

MALPRACTICE/MEDICAL: Adds registered dietitians under the medical malpractice act

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 40:1299.39(A)(1)(a)(ii)(introductory paragraph) and  
3 1299.41(A)(10), relative to medical malpractice; to include licensed dietitians within  
4 the definitions of state health care provider and health care provider; and to provide  
5 for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 40:1299.39(A)(1)(a)(ii)(introductory paragraph) and 1299.41(A)(10)  
8 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

9 §1299.39. Definitions and general application

10 A. As used in this Part:

11 (1)(a) "State health care provider" or "person covered by this Part" means:

12 \* \* \*

13 (ii) A person acting in a professional capacity in providing health care  
14 services, by or on behalf of the state, including but not limited to a physician,  
15 psychologist, coroner, and assistant coroner who is a licensed physician when acting  
16 solely in accordance with the Mental Health Law as provided in R.S. 28:50 et seq.,  
17 provided that the premium costs of such malpractice coverage shall be the  
18 responsibility of the coroner's office, dentist, licensed dietitian, registered nurse,  
19 licensed practical nurse, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, pharmacist,  
20 optometrist, podiatrist, physical therapist, occupational therapist, licensed respiratory

1 therapist, licensed radiologic technologist, licensed clinical laboratory scientist,  
2 social worker, hospital administrator, or licensed professional counselor, who is  
3 either:

4 \* \* \*

5 §1299.41. Definitions and general applications

6 A. As used in this Part:

7 \* \* \*

8 (10) "Health care provider" means a person, partnership, limited liability  
9 partnership, limited liability company, corporation, facility, or institution licensed  
10 or certified by this state to provide health care or professional services as a physician,  
11 hospital, nursing home, community blood center, tissue bank, dentist, licensed  
12 dietitian, registered or licensed practical nurse or certified nurse assistant, offshore  
13 health service provider, ambulance service under circumstances in which the  
14 provisions of R.S. 40:1299.39 are not applicable, certified registered nurse  
15 anesthetist, nurse midwife, licensed midwife, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse  
16 specialist, pharmacist, optometrist, podiatrist, chiropractor, physical therapist,  
17 occupational therapist, psychologist, social worker, licensed professional counselor,  
18 licensed perfusionist, licensed respiratory therapist, licensed radiologic technologist,  
19 licensed clinical laboratory scientist, or any nonprofit facility considered tax-exempt  
20 under Section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code, pursuant to 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3),  
21 for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer or cancer-related diseases, whether or not  
22 such a facility is required to be licensed by this state, or any professional corporation  
23 a health care provider is authorized to form under the provisions of Title 12 of the  
24 Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, or any partnership, limited liability partnership,  
25 limited liability company, management company, or corporation whose business is  
26 conducted principally by health care providers, or an officer, employee, partner,  
27 member, shareholder, or agent thereof acting in the course and scope of his  
28 employment.

29 \* \* \*

---

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

---

HB 335 Original

2015 Regular Session

Henry Burns

**Abstract:** Adds licensed dietitians to the definitions of "state health care provider" and "health care provider" in order to include licensed dietitians within the medical malpractice limitations of liability.

Present law provides a limitation of liability for state health care providers for state health care services and for health care providers for private health care services, each of which limits their malpractice liability to \$500,000, plus interest and costs, exclusive of future medical care and related benefits.

Present law provides definitions for "state health care provider" and for "health care provider", both of which include, in part, physicians, psychologists, dentists, registered nurses, pharmacists, optometrists, social workers, and physical and occupational therapists.

Proposed law adds licensed dietitians to the definitions of "state health care provider" and "health care provider" in order to include licensed dietitians within the medical malpractice limitations of liability.

(Amends R.S. 40:1299.39(A)(1)(a)(ii)(intro. para.) and 1299.41(A)(10))