

2020 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 469

BY SENATOR JOHNS

STATE AGENCIES. Provides relative to professional and occupational licensing boards and commissions during declared emergencies. (gov sig)

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 37:23.4, relative to professional and occupational licensing boards and commissions; to provide relative to the administration of regulations during an emergency; to provide relative to the regulation of persons by boards and commissions when impacted by an emergency; to prohibit certain actions; to provide for terms, conditions, effects, and procedures; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 37:23.4 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

**§23.4. Boards and commission; actions during declared emergency**

**A. In response to the threat posed by COVID-19, the governor of Louisiana on March 11, 2020, declared a public health emergency in Proclamation 25 JBE 2020. The provisions of this Section are intended to be part of the legislative response to this public health emergency and, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, shall supersede and control to the extent of conflict with any other provision of law.**

**B. During the public health emergency declared in Proclamation 25 JBE 2020, and any extension thereof, no professional or occupational licensing board**

1 or commission shall take any punitive or disciplinary action against a licensee  
 2 solely for the late payment of a fee, late submission of a document, or failure to  
 3 timely meet any deadline required by law.

4 C. For the purposes of this Section, "punitive or disciplinary action"  
 5 shall include but not be limited to the imposition of a penalty and suspension or  
 6 revocation of a license. "Licensee" shall include but not be limited to a licensee,  
 7 permittee, registrant, or certificate holder.

8 D. The provisions of this Section shall cease when the gubernatorial  
 9 proclamation of public health emergency expires.

10 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
 11 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
 12 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
 13 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
 14 effective on the day following such approval.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
 of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Michelle Ridge.

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#### DIGEST

SB 469 Original

2020 Regular Session

Johns

Present law provides for the regulation of professions and occupations by state licensing boards and commissions.

Proposed law provides that during the declared public health emergency issued in Proclamation 25 JBE 2020, and any extension thereof, no professional or occupational licensing board or commission shall take any punitive or disciplinary action against a licensee solely for the late payment of a fee, late submission of a document, or failure to timely meet any deadline required by law.

Proposed law provides the phrase "punitive or disciplinary actions" shall include but not be limited to imposition of a penalty and suspension or revocation of a license.

Proposed law provides the term "licensee" shall include but not be limited to a licensee, permittee, registrant, or certificate holder.

Proposed law shall cease when the gubernatorial proclamation of public health emergency expires.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 37:23.4)