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 DIGEST

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SB 328 Engrossed

2022 Regular Session

Fred Mills

Present law creates and provides for the La. State Board of Optometry Examiners, referred to hereafter as the "board", within the La. Dept. of Health. Provides that the board shall be comprised of five licensed optometrists who have each practiced optometry in this state for seven years and one consumer member. Proposed law retains present law and requires that the optometrist members of the board must be actively licensed and in good standing with the board.

Present law provides that each licensed optometrist member of the board shall be appointed by the governor from a list of three names submitted to him by the board. Proposed law revises present law to create five board districts with one licensed optometrist member representing each district.

Present law establishes that the term of each member shall be five years. Proposed law retains present law and provides that no person shall be appointed to serve more than three full terms, whether the service is consecutive or not. Proposed law stipulates, however, that it shall only apply to any term of a board member that began on or after Jan. 1, 2016, and shall not prohibit any current board members who have served more than three full terms from continuing to serve for the remainder of their term or until a successor is appointed.

Proposed law provides that no member of the board shall hold an elected or appointed position in an optometry professional association at any time during his term on the board. Provides, however, that proposed law shall not prohibit a member of the board from holding an elected or appointed position in an association for optometry regulatory boards.

Proposed law revises present law to change the number of members constituting a quorum of the board from three to four.

Proposed law revises present law to provide that in addition to U.S. citizens, persons with valid and current legal authority to reside and work in the U.S. may qualify to apply for licensure from the board as optometrists.

Proposed law repeals present law relative to recording of certain certificates and issuance of lists of licensed optometrists.

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

(Amends R.S. 37:1042(A), (B), (C)(1)(intro. para.), and (D), 1045(A), and 1049(1); Repeals R.S. 37:1055 and 1060)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Health and Welfare to the original bill

1. Changes the order in which each district will have a representative initially appointed.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the engrossed bill:

1. Provide that proposed law shall not be construed to prohibit a member of the board from holding an elected or appointed position in an association for optometry regulatory boards.
2. Revise present law to change the number of members constituting a quorum of the board from three to four.
3. Revise present law to provide that in addition to U.S. citizens, persons with valid and current legal authority to reside and work in the U.S. may qualify to apply for licensure as optometrists in La.
4. Repeal present law relative to recording of certain certificates and issuance of lists of licensed optometrists.
5. Provide that proposed law shall become effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.
6. Make technical changes.