

## RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 33 (SB 20)

2023 Regular Session

McMath

Prior law authorized the board of commissioners (board) of a hospital or hospital service district to establish and administer a nursing scholarship program for the purpose of increasing the educational opportunities available to nursing students who will practice in the hospital district. Prior law further authorized a separate allied health profession scholarship program for the purpose of increasing the educational opportunities available to allied health students who will practice in the hospital district. New law combines the two programs into one scholarship program for both nursing and allied health students.

Prior law defined "allied health" as any generally recognized medical profession or vocation including but not limited to respiratory, vocational, physical, and other therapies; medical, radiologic, and other technologists; pharmacists, social workers, and other similar professions and vocations. New law specifies that allied health includes occupational therapy and athletic trainers.

Prior law defined "nursing" as professional nursing as practiced by an individual who has graduated from an accredited school of nursing, passed the licensing examination, and been issued a license to practice as registered nurse in this state by the La. State Board of Nursing. New law adds licensed practical nursing.

Prior law provided that a nursing student must be a United States Citizen and resident of Louisiana who is admitted to or engaged in the study of nursing at an accredited school located in Louisiana. Prior law further provided that an allied health student must be a United States Citizen and resident of Louisiana who is admitted to or engaged in the study of an allied health profession at an accredited school located in the United States. New law expands eligibility to any nursing or allied health student engaged in the study of nursing or allied health at an accredited school located in the United States.

Existing law provides that any applicant selected by the board of commissioners to receive a scholarship shall enter into a contract with the board. Prior law required the contract to be signed by the chairman of the board of commissioners, the vice-chairman of the board, and the applicant. New law requires the contract to be signed by the president and chief executive officer, or equivalent, of the hospital or hospital service district and the applicant.

Prior law provided that for each \$1,000 of scholarship monies received from the hospital district, the recipient was obligated to practice full time nursing for a period of not less than six months up to a total not to exceed 36 months of full time work as consideration for the scholarship awarded. New law repeals prior law.

Prior law provided, upon default of payment of the scholarship, for the board to turn the matter over to the attorney general or any parish or district attorney acting for the board for prosecution and suit for the amount due. New law repeals prior law and provides that the board shall begin efforts to recoup any amount owed including but not limited to filing suit for the amount due.

Prior law provided that venue for filing suit was proper in the parish of the domicile of the recipient, the parish in which the school at which the recipient was last enrolled is located, or the parish of East Baton Rouge. New law broadens venue from the parish of East Baton Rouge to the parish where the hospital service district is located.

Effective June 1, 2023.

(Amends R.S. 46:1131, 1133-1138, 1140, and 1141; repeals R.S. 46:1151-1162)