

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 131

BY SENATOR PRESSLY

ATTORNEYS. Provides for limitations on recovery of attorney fees and costs in occupational licensing board disciplinary hearings. (8/1/26)

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 37:21, relative to professions and occupations; to provide relative to limiting recovery of attorney fees and costs in disciplinary proceedings initiated by professional or occupational licensing boards; to provide relative to licensees; to provide relative to negotiations; to provide relative to suspension and probationary periods; to provide relative to monetary fees; to provide relative to certain offers of judgments; to provide relative to consent order negotiations; to provide relative to attorney fees and costs incurred by the board; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 37:21 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§21. Limitations on disciplinary proceedings by professional or occupational boards and commissions; **recovery of attorney fees and costs**

\* \* \*

B. The provisions of ~~this Section~~ **Subsection A of this section** shall not apply to the following:

- (1) The Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners.

- 1 (2) The Louisiana State Board of Dentistry.
- 2 (3) A certified public accountant.
- 3 (4) Repealed by Acts 2023, No. 381, §2, eff. August 1, 2023.
- 4 (5) The Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors.
- 5 (6) The Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and
- 6 Audiology.
- 7 (7) The Louisiana Board of Pharmacy.
- 8 (8) The Louisiana State Board of Nursing.
- 9 (9) The Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners.
- 10 (10) The Louisiana Physical Therapy Board.
- 11 (11) The Louisiana State Board of Practical Nurse Examiners.

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**D. When a professional or occupational board initiates a disciplinary action against a licensee and the final resolution of the proceeding before the board results in a consent order, judgment or finding in which the length of the suspension or probationary period imposed or the amount of the monetary payment required of the licensee is less than an offer of judgment made or monetary amount offered previously by the licensee in a consent order negotiation, the board shall not collect from the licensee the attorney fees or costs of the proceeding incurred by the board after the offer of judgment or offer in negotiation was made in writing.**

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

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DIGEST

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Present law (R.S. 37:21(B)) provides that the provisions of present law (R.S. 37:21) do not apply to certain professional or occupational licensing boards.

Proposed law provides that the provisions of present law (R.S. 37:21(A)) do not apply to certain professional or occupational licensing boards.

Proposed law provides that when a professional or occupational board initiates a disciplinary

action against a licensee and the final resolution of the proceeding before the board results in a consent order, judgment or finding in which the length of the suspension or probationary period imposed or the amount of the monetary payment required of the licensee is less than an offer of judgment made or monetary amount offered previously by the licensee in a consent order negotiation, the board shall not collect from the licensee the attorney fees or costs of the proceeding incurred by the board after the offer of judgment or offer in negotiation was made in writing.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 37:21)