

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1220

BY REPRESENTATIVE LACOMBE

BOARDS/COMMISSIONS: Provides relative to the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 37:1263(B)(1) through (7), (C)(1)(a) and (2)(b), and (D)(1),

3 1266, and 1270(A)(introductory paragraph) and (9) and to enact R.S. 37:1263(C)(3)

4 and (D)(4) and (5), relative to the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners; to

5 provide for membership of the board; to provide for the duties of the board; to

6 provide for qualifications of the members of the board; to establish a procedure for

7 filling vacancies of the board; to provide for the president of the board; to provide

8 for executive staff of the board; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 37:1263(B)(1) through (7), (C)(1)(a) and (2)(b), and (D)(1), 1266,

11 and 1270(A)(introductory paragraph) and (9) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.

12 37:1263(C)(3) and (D)(4) and (5) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 §1263. Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners; membership; qualifications;

14 appointment; removal; terms

15 \* \* \*

16 B. The board shall consist of ten voting members, all appointed by the

17 governor and subject to Senate confirmation as follows:



1 (2)

2 \* \* \*

3 (b) The consumer member shall be a full voting member of the board with  
4 all rights and privileges conferred on board members, except that the consumer  
5 member shall not participate in the grading of individual examinations. The  
6 consumer member shall serve at the pleasure of the governor.

7 (3) No member shall serve on the board if he is also a member of the  
8 governing body of a nominating organization provided for in Subsection B of this  
9 Section.

10 D.(1) The governor shall appoint the members of the board in accordance  
11 with ~~other~~ the provisions of this Section and the state constitution. The governor  
12 shall ensure that his appointments demonstrate race, gender, ethnic, and geographical  
13 diversity and shall consider an allocation of medical specialties that broaden the  
14 expertise of the physician members of the board.

15 \* \* \*

16 (4) The governor shall request a list of nominees from the nominating  
17 organization when he intends to fill a vacancy on the board. The nominating  
18 organization shall respond to the governor's request within thirty days and provide  
19 a list of nominees within ninety days of the request. If the nominating organization  
20 fails to meet either deadline provided for in this Paragraph, the governor shall  
21 appoint a physician of his choosing.

22 (5) The governor may select the president of the board from the members of  
23 the board in accordance with R.S. 42:4(B)(1). If the governor does not select a  
24 president, the members of board shall select a president by majority vote.

25 \* \* \*

26 §1266. Meetings of board

27 The board shall hold at least ~~one~~ five regular ~~meeting~~ meetings each year and  
28 special meetings as are necessary. A special meeting of the board may be called by

1 the president ,or at the written request of a majority of the board members, at any  
2 ~~place~~ time when a majority of the board, or its president, deems it expedient.

3 \* \* \*

4 §1270. Duties and powers of the board

5 A. The board shall do all of the following:

6 \* \* \*

7 (9) Appoint executive staff as appropriate to fulfill the mission of the board.

8 The board shall, at a minimum, appoint the following staff:

9 (a) An executive director who is the administrative head of the board, has  
10 operational oversight over all departments, and perform other such duties as may be  
11 prescribed by the board. The executive director is not required to be a physician and  
12 shall not participate in discussions related to investigations and discipline of  
13 licensees.

14 (b) A ~~a~~ director of investigations ~~to~~ who shall act as the lead investigator for  
15 any complaint regarding a physician received by the board or any investigation  
16 regarding a physician initiated by the board upon its own motion in accordance with  
17 R.S. 37:1285.2(A). The director of investigations shall serve at the pleasure of the  
18 board and be answerable directly to the board. The director of investigations shall  
19 be prohibited from concurrently serving as the executive director of the board. Any  
20 person appointed by the board to serve as director of investigations shall be a  
21 Louisiana-licensed physician who maintains board certification and has engaged in  
22 the active practice of medicine in this state for at least five years.

23 \* \* \*

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**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)]

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HB 1220 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

LaCombe

**Abstract:** Provides relative to the La. St. Board of Medical Examiners (board).

Present law provides that the board shall have 10 voting members who are all appointed by the governor and subject to Senate confirmation.

Proposed law requires that all members of the board, except the consumer member, be physicians.

Present law provides that a physician member of the board shall, at the time of appointment, be a resident of this state for six months.

Proposed law modifies present law by changing the resident requirement from six months to five years.

Present law provides for one consumer member of the board.

Proposed law provides that the consumer member shall serve at the pleasure of the governor.

Proposed law prohibits a member from serving on the board if he is also a member of the governing body of a nominating organization, as provided by present law.

Proposed law requires the governor to ensure that his appointments to the board demonstrate diversity.

Proposed law requires the governor to provide a nominating organization notice of his intent to fill a vacancy on the board. Proposed law further requires the nominating organization to respond to the notice within 30 days and provide a list of nominees within 90 days. If the nominating agency fails to meet either deadline, the governor appoints a physician of his choosing.

Present law provides that the board shall hold at least one regular meeting each year.

Proposed law requires the board to hold at least five meetings each year.

Proposed law provides that the governor may select the president of the board from the members of the board, but if he does not select a president, the board shall select a president.

Proposed law requires the board to hire an executive director of the board who has administrative oversight of the board and its subdivisions. Proposed law further requires the executive director to participate in discussions related to investigations and discipline of licensees.

Present law requires the board to hire a director of investigations who is a La.-licensed physician and actively practices medicine.

Proposed law clarifies present law that the director of investigations must actively practice in this state.

(Amends R.S. 37:1263(B)(1)-(7), (C)(1)(a) and (2)(b), and (D)(1), 1266, and 1270(A)(intro. para.) and (9); Adds R.S. 37:1263(C)(3) and (D)(4) and (5))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Provide for the membership of the board.
2. Remove provisions relative to the domicile of the board.
3. Make technical changes.