Barras (HB 479) Act No. 422

Existing law (R.S. 42:1170(A)) requires each public servant to receive a minimum of one hour of education and training on the Code of Governmental Ethics during each year of his public employment or term of office, as the case may be. Defines "public servant" as a public employee or an elected official. Exempts from this requirement any person who is a public servant solely because he serves as an uncompensated volunteer fireman or an uncompensated auxiliary or reserve law enforcement officer.

New law provides an additional exemption for a nonsalaried employee of a hospital owned or operated by a hospital service district as defined in existing law (R.S. 46:1072) unless the employee is authorized to enter into contracts on behalf of the hospital for goods or services or the duties of the employee include the supervision of another public employee. Existing law as applicable to this exception defines "hospital service district" as a political subdivision of the state organized pursuant to an Act of the legislature or pursuant to existing law (R.S. 46:1051 et seq) and a hospital owned by a city, parish, or other political subdivision of the state or owned or operated by the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College.

New law additionally provides that commencing on Jan. 1, 2014, each head of a department of the executive branch enumerated in existing law (R.S. 36:4(A)), except a statewide elected official, shall be required to receive an additional one hour of education and training on the ethics code during each year of his public employment or term of office, as the case may be. Provides that the additional topic to be addressed shall be contract ethics.

Effective August 1, 2013.

(Amends R.S. 42:1170(A)(3)(a); Adds R.S. 42:1170(A)(3)(c) and R.S. 46:1076.1)