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## DIGEST

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HB 210 Original

2017 Regular Session

Coussan

**Abstract:** Provides for the licensure of retired dentists who provide voluntary dental services.

Present law authorizes the La. State Board of Dentistry (LSBD) to issue a retired volunteer dental license to an applicant to practice dentistry in a community healthcare clinic.

Proposed law expands eligibility for the license to any applicant if the dentist's practice consists only of voluntary care, as defined by LSBD rule.

Present law provides that the provisions of present law relative to a limitation of liability for gratuitous service by a healthcare provider in a community healthcare clinic or community pharmacy applies to an individual practicing pursuant to a retired volunteer dentist license issued by the LSBD.

Proposed law repeals present law and extends the limitation of liability to any dentist holding a retired volunteer license to practice dentistry who in good faith gratuitously renders health care to a patient unless the damages were caused by the gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct of the dentist. Further exempts from the limitation of liability a dentist holding a retired volunteer license who treats a patient in a private clinic where payment by the patient is expected and the patient or the patient's private insurer pays the clinic or the clinic owner for the treatment, even if the dentist holding the volunteer license is providing the treatment without being remunerated.

Present law requires the holder of the retired volunteer dental license to practice a minimum, on average, of eight hours per month. Further requires the license to be automatically revoked if the community healthcare clinic at which the retired volunteer dentist seeks to practice permanently ceases operation unless the licensee begins practicing in another community healthcare clinic for the required minimum number of hours per month within 90 days.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Present law authorizes any person licensed as a retired volunteer dentist to apply for a return to active licensure status. Further requires licensees who have not practiced at least one year out of the five years immediately preceding the application for an active license to document and certify to the LSBD how they have maintained their professional ability, skills, and knowledge.

Proposed law retains present law but changes the time period for practice to one year immediately preceding the application for an active license.

(Amends R.S. 37:761.1(A), (D), (F), and (H))