

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 138

2025 Regular Session

Dewitt

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS: Provides with respect to the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Modifies the membership of the La. St. Bd. of Medical Examiners (board).
2. Provides for the qualifications of the non-physician healthcare professional member of the board.
3. Provides that members of the board appointed before July 31, 2025 shall serve at the pleasure of the governor.
4. Provides that members of the board appointed after August 1, 2025 shall serve staggered terms of four years except that the non-physician healthcare professional shall serve a term of two years.
5. Adds that one physician member of the board shall be from each congressional district.
6. Adds that the governor shall give due consideration to the allocation of medical specialties in his appointments of members to the board.
7. Provides for hiring board staff.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Proposed law provides for the membership, qualifications, powers, and duties of the La. State Bd. 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 adds a non-physician healthcare professional to the board.

Proposed law provides for the qualifications of the non-physician healthcare professional member.

Proposed law provides that the non-physician healthcare professional member shall be a full voting member of the board with all rights and privileges conferred on board members, except that the non-physician healthcare member shall not vote on matters related to the discipline of physicians and shall not participate in grading individual examinations.

Present law provides that the governor may remove a member for good cause.

Proposed law provides that members appointed before July 31, 2025 shall serve at the pleasure of the governor. Proposed law further provides that physician board members appointed after August 1, 2025, shall serve staggered terms of four years.

Present law provides that members of the board serve a four-year term.

Proposed law provides that physician members and the consumer member serve a term of four years and the non-physician healthcare professional serves a term of two years.

Present law provides that the nine physician members of the board shall be appointed by the governor from a list of names provided by an entity in this state.

Proposed law adds that at least one physician member shall be from each congressional district.

Present law provides for mandatory and discretionary powers and duties of the board.

Proposed law directs the board to consult with the executive director when hiring a director of investigations.

Proposed law provides that the director of investigations shall provide recommendations on disciplinary action.

Present law provides that the director of investigations is answerable directly to the board.

Proposed law provides that the director of investigations is answerable directly to the executive director of the board.

Proposed law provides that the first non-physician healthcare member shall be a physician assistant.

Proposed law directs the board to hire an executive director who may be a physician.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 37:1263(B)(9), (C)(1)(a), and (F) and 1270(A)(9); Adds R.S. 37:1263(C)(3), (D)(4), (G), and (H) and 1270(A)(10))