



Jeff Landry
Governor

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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June 24, 2025

The Honorable Phillip R. DeVillier
Speaker of the House
Louisiana House of Representatives
State Capitol
900 N. 3rd St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

The Honorable Michelle Fontenot
Clerk of the House
State Capitol
900 N. 3rd St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

RE: House Bill 399 of the 2025 Regular Session by Representative Emily Chenevert

Dear Speaker DeVillier and Clerk Fontenot:

Please be advised I have vetoed House Bill 399 of the 2025 Regular Session by Representative Chenevert.

While House Bill 399 is framed as a step toward enhancing license portability, it does so by ceding significant state authority to an unelected, multi-state compact commission. Far from a simple streamlining measure, House Bill 399 would undermine Louisiana's ability to govern its own licensing systems, posing serious risks to privacy, transparency, and fiscal responsibility.

Under HB 399, Louisiana would delegate broad regulatory powers to an external commission – powers that include collecting fees, filing lawsuits, borrowing state personnel (including Louisiana employees), and forming committees with regulators, legislators, and consumer representatives from other states. These powers are granted without meaningful legislative oversight or accountability to Louisiana taxpayers.

Particularly alarming is Section 9 of the bill, which compels Louisiana to transmit licensee data – including sensitive personal information – to a shared national database managed by the commission. With no assurance of data protection or confidentiality House Bill 399 creates serious privacy risks. Meanwhile, the bill grants the commission qualified immunity – effectively shielding it from liability should a breach occur.

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House Bill 399 Veto Message
June 24, 2025

The bill permits the commission to impose fees both on the Louisiana Board of Examiners in Dietetics and Nutrition and on individual licensees, with rates set through commission rulemaking processes that operate entirely outside Louisiana’s legislative or administrative frameworks. Moreover, if Louisiana chooses to withdraw from the compact, the State remains liable for any financial obligations incurred during its membership – and the commission may sue in federal court to collect those debts.

Beyond the financial implications, the bill raises significant concerns about transparency and accountability. HB 399 allows the commission to hold closed meetings for a broad range of reasons, including any “other matters as specified in the rules of the compact commission.” As a result, the commission could entirely bypass Louisiana’s Open Meetings Law without seeking a legislative amendment.

In 2024, my administration enacted the Welcome Home Act, which already requires licensing boards to issue Louisiana licenses to qualified applicants licensed in other states. If Representative Chenevert wishes to expand licensure portability to out-of-state residents, I am eager to collaborate on legislation that does so without compromising state sovereignty, licensee privacy, or public accountability.

For these reasons, I have vetoed HB 399.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Landry", with a long, sweeping underline.

Jeff Landry
Governor

Enclosure: Returned House Bill 399