

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

HB 340

2025 Regular Session

Newell

Present law provides for the La. State Board of Dentistry (board), and provides that the board shall be domiciled in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Proposed law would have required that the board be domiciled in Orleans Parish.

(Proposed to amend R.S. 37:753(I))

Veto Message:

"I am notifying you that I have vetoed House Bill 340 from the 2025 Regular Session by Representative Candace Newell.

The proposed bill seeks to move the official domicile of the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry from East Baton Rouge Parish to Orleans Parish. This change is both unnecessary and counterproductive to the Board's mission of serving the entire state.

The Louisiana State Board of Dentistry is a statewide regulatory agency under the Louisiana Department of Health, La. R.S. 36:259(A)(1), which is itself domiciled in East Baton Rouge Parish, La. R.S. 36:251(A). The Board's composition reflects its statewide mandate – including ten members representing nine geographic districts, with additional at-large members. It licenses and oversees dental professionals across all regions of Louisiana, many of whom may be required to attend hearings or meetings – or may wish to do so as members of the public.

Relocating the Board's domicile from Baton Rouge to New Orleans places it farther from the geographic center of the state and from the Capitol, where coordination with other agencies and state officials regularly occurs. Baton Rouge's central location facilitates both inter-agency collaboration and equitable access for residents from all parts of Louisiana.

The stated rationale for this move – the Board's proximity to the state dental school in Orleans Parish – may offer localized convenience, but this benefit is limited to a narrow constituency. It does not justify diminishing the accessibility and neutrality that come with maintaining the Board's presence in the state capitol.

This bill, while perhaps well-intentioned, would undermine regulatory independence and create logistical burdens for both board members and the public. The current Baton Rouge domicile best serves the interests of transparency, fairness, and statewide accessibility. It should be preserved."