

Existing law provides that meetings of public bodies shall be open meetings. Provides for executive session, exceptions to open meetings, and procedural requirements of open meetings. Further provides for enforcement, remedies, venue, and civil penalties for noncompliance. Prior law provided that the Patient's Compensation Fund Oversight Board meetings shall not be subject to the Open Meetings Law.

New law makes a technical correction, clarifying that the board shall not be subject to civil penalties for violations of the Open Meetings Law.

Prior law provided for the operation of the Patient's Compensation Fund.

New law retains prior law but changes the time limitation within which surcharges become payable to the Patient's Compensation Fund from 45 days to 30 days and designates an agent of an insurer as a proper party to remit the surcharge. Further provides that a health care provider provide a copy of his qualification status and the petition for damages to the board when it intervenes in a civil action.

Prior law provided for the operation of the medical review panel and the state medical review panel.

New law requires the name of only one patient be included in a request for review of a malpractice claim. If the claim involves the care of a pregnant mother and her unborn child, the naming of the mother as the patient shall suffice. Provides for return of any filing fees within 30 days for review of a malpractice claim received after the 45-day time limitation provided in prior law. Further provides that a health care provider may raise any peremptory exception in a civil action without first completing the review process with the review panel.

Prior law provided for notice of dissolution of the medical review panel by the attorney chairman of the board.

New law corrects a typographical error in prior law providing for notice of dissolution to be made by the attorney chairman or the board.

Effective August 1, 2012.

(Amends R.S. 40:1299.39.1(A)(1)(b)(ii) and (B)(2), 1299.44(A)(3), (D)(2)(b)(xiv) and (5), 1299.47(A)(1)(b)(ii) and (B)(2) and (3); Adds R.S. 40:1299.39.1(A)(6) and 1299.47(A)(6); Repeals R.S. 40:1299(A)(7)(e))