

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

House Bill No. 221 by Representative Connick

ETHICS/DUAL EMPLOYMENT: Authorizes certain dual employment and dual officeholding for physicians and provides relative to the amount credited against qualified student loan debt for certain public employees

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Adds provisions increasing from \$3,000 to \$5,000 the amount allowed, pursuant to the ethics code, to be accepted by certain public servants each year through a loan repayment assistance program and to be credited against qualified student loan debt.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law regulates dual officeholding and dual employment in order to prevent conflicts of interest and to promote and maintain citizen trust in government. Prohibits certain specific combinations of public office and employment, including a prohibition against a person holding at the same time office or employment in state government and office or employment in the U.S. government. Provides exceptions to this prohibition. Allows an employee of the U.S. government to hold an appointive office in a political subdivision or serve as an elected member of a school board, unless the particular combination of duties is adverse to the public interest as set forth in present law. Allows a part-time elected official, as that term is defined in present law, to hold employment with the U.S. government while serving in his part-time elective office, unless the particular combination of duties is adverse to the public interest.

Present law additionally prohibits a person from holding a combination of offices and employments that are determined to be incompatible because of the existence of certain conditions set forth in present law.

Proposed law provides an exception to present law to allow a member of the faculty or staff of a public higher education institution to also hold an appointive office or employment in the U.S. government in a health care facility as a health care provider or researcher.

Present law (R.S. 42:1111(A)) provides that no public servant shall receive anything of economic value, other than compensation and benefits from the governmental entity to which he is duly entitled, for the performance of the duties and responsibilities of his office or position. Provides for exceptions.

Present law provides that up to \$3,000 per year to be credited against qualified student loan debt that is provided to a former law student who is an attorney and a public employee through a bona fide Loan Repayment Assistance Program established as a qualified program under the federal Internal Revenue Code and administered by any law school using funds or property accruing to the benefit of the law school or from a foundation which is organized specifically to aid and support the programs of the law school and the charter of which specifically provides that the purpose of the foundation is to aid the law school in a philanthropic manner shall be deemed for purposes of present law as a supplement to his compensation to which he is duly entitled. Provides, however, that such a supplement shall not be considered regular compensation from the governmental entity which employs him, nor shall it be the basis for governmentally supported benefits.

Proposed law increases the amount that may be accepted each year from \$3,000 to \$5,000. Otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 42:1111(A)(4); Adds R.S. 42:66(O))