

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 498

BY REPRESENTATIVE EMERSON

LICENSING: Provides relative to occupational license and examination fee waiver and payment plan for qualified individuals

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 37:23.3, relative to occupational licensing fees; to provide for waiver of fees;  
3 to provide for criteria; to provide for payment plans; to provide fee limits; and to  
4 provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 37:23.3 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §23.3. Waiver of licensing fees; payment plans

8 A. Licensing boards shall waive any fee charged for an initial license or  
9 examination to any individual who is otherwise qualified to receive a license and  
10 meets either of the following requirements:

11 (1) Receives public assistance including, but not limited to the following:

12 (a) Food stamps.

13 (b) Temporary assistance for needy families.

14 (c) Medicaid.

15 (d) Disability insurance.

16 (e) Resides in public housing.

17 (2) Earns less than two hundred percent of the current federal poverty  
18 guidelines as established by the federal office of management and budget.

19 B.(1) Licensing boards shall provide payment plans in lieu of full license and  
20 examination fee payments for initial applications and examinations to all individuals

1        who apply, except for an individual who applies for a certificate of license who  
2        would otherwise be unqualified pursuant to this Title.

3                (2) Total fees paid by payment plans shall not exceed the amount an  
4        individual paying the full examination and licensing fee would otherwise pay.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 498 Original

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Emerson

**Abstract:** Requires licensing boards to waive fees to applicants who meet certain criteria and to offer payment plans.

Proposed law requires licensing boards to waive certain fees for applicants who meet either of the following criteria:

- (1) Receiving public assistance.
- (2) Earning less than 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

Proposed law requires licensing boards to offer payment plans to all qualified applicants.

Proposed law stipulates that fees paid by the payment plans are not to exceed the amount of fees charged for applicants paying the full price of exam or licensing.

(Adds R.S. 37:23.3)