

By: Representative Taylor

To: Public Health and
Welfare

HOUSE BILL NO. 371

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 73-53-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN SOCIAL WORKERS AND SOCIAL SERVICES DESIGNEES
3 AT NURSING FACILITIES SHALL BE ISSUED SOCIAL WORKER LICENSES; AND
4 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

6 SECTION 1. Section 73-53-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 73-53-7. (1) Except as hereinafter provided, all
9 individuals not exempt from licensure who are not licensed under
10 this chapter are prohibited from performing services for
11 compensation for which licensure is required by this chapter, and
12 are also prohibited from holding themselves out to the public by
13 any title or description of services set out in this chapter or by
14 any title or description of services likely to cause public
15 confusion with any title or description of services set out in
16 this chapter.

17 (2) Any person not licensed under this chapter on July 1,
18 1993, who is actively engaged in the practice of social work
19 before July 1, 1994, as an employee of the State of Mississippi or
20 any agency, political subdivision or municipality thereof or any
21 community action agency or Head Start agency, and who is not
22 eligible to be issued a license under subsection (3) of this
23 section, shall be issued a provisional license as a licensed
24 social worker by the board, if the person applies for such
25 provisional license before July 1, 1994, and, at the time that the
26 application is made, the person is so actively engaged. The
27 license shall be issued by the board upon application therefor,

28 the submission of proof satisfactory to the board of the
29 applicant's employment in the practice of social work as provided
30 in this subsection, and the payment of the appropriate fee. Such
31 license shall be valid for a maximum period of two (2) years, but
32 not to extend past June 30, 1995, during which time the
33 provisional licensee must pass the AASSWB social work examination
34 at the basic level.

35 (3) Any person not licensed under this chapter on July 1,
36 1993, who has been actively engaged in the practice of social work
37 for not less than five (5) years before July 1, 1993, as an
38 employee of the State of Mississippi or any agency, political
39 subdivision or municipality thereof or any community action agency
40 or Head Start agency, shall be issued a license as a social worker
41 by the board, if the person applies for such license before
42 September 1, 1994, and at the time that the application is made,
43 the person is so actively engaged. The license shall be issued by
44 the board upon application therefor, the submission of proof
45 satisfactory to the board of the applicant's employment in the
46 practice of social work as provided in this subsection, and the
47 payment of the appropriate fee.

48 (4) Any person who was not licensed under this chapter on
49 July 1, 1993, who had been actively engaged in the practice of
50 social work or in practice as a social services designee for a
51 privately-owned nursing facility for not less than five (5) years
52 before July 1, 1993, shall be issued a license as a social worker
53 by the board, if the person applies for such license before
54 September 1, 1999, and at the time that the application is made,
55 the person is so actively engaged. The license shall be issued by
56 the board upon application therefor, the submission of proof
57 satisfactory to the board of the applicant's employment in the
58 practice of social work or in practice as a social services
59 designee as provided in this subsection, and the payment of the
60 appropriate fee.

61 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
62 and after July 1, 1999.