

By: Ford

To: Public Health and
Welfare

HOUSE BILL NO. 264

1 AN ACT TO REENACT SECTIONS 73-14-1 THROUGH 73-14-47,
2 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDE FOR THE LICENSURE AND
3 REGULATION OF HEARING AID SPECIALISTS BY THE BOARD OF HEALTH; TO
4 AMEND SECTION 73-14-49, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO EXTEND THE
5 DATE OF THE REPEALER FROM JULY 1, 2000, TO JULY 1, 2001; AND FOR
6 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 SECTION 1. Section 73-14-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 reenacted as follows:

10 73-14-1. The State Board of Health established and empowered
11 by Section 41-3-1 et seq., Mississippi Code of 1972, shall
12 discharge as additional duties and responsibilities the provisions
13 of this chapter in the examination, licensing and regulation of
14 persons who sell and fit hearing aids and who test hearing while
15 engaged in the selling and fitting of hearing aids.

16 SECTION 2. Section 73-14-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
17 reenacted as follows:

18 73-14-3. The following definitions apply as used in this
19 chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

20 (a) The "board" means the Mississippi State Board of
21 Health.

22 (b) "License" includes a temporary license.

23 (c) "Hearing aid" shall mean any wearable instrument or

24 device designed for or offered for the purpose of aiding or
25 compensating for impaired human hearing and any parts,
26 attachments, or accessories, including ear molds, but excluding
27 such things as telephone devices, batteries and cords.

28 (d) "Hearing aid specialist" means an individual
29 licensed by the board to engage in the practice of dispensing and
30 fitting hearing aids.

31 (e) "Practice of dispensing and fitting hearing aids"
32 means the evaluation or measurement of powers or range of human
33 hearing by means of an audiometer and the consequent selection or
34 adaptation or sale of hearing aids intended to compensate for
35 hearing loss, including the making of an impression of the ear.

36 (f) "Sell" or "sale" means any transfer of title or of
37 the right to use by lease, bailment, or any other contract,
38 excluding wholesale transactions with distributors or dealers.

39 (g) "Unethical conduct" means:

40 (i) The obtaining of any fee or the making of any
41 sale by fraud or misrepresentation.

42 (ii) Knowingly employing directly or indirectly
43 any suspended or unlicensed person to perform any work covered by
44 this chapter.

45 (iii) Representing that the professional services
46 or advice of a physician or audiologist will be used or made
47 available in the selling, fitting, adjustment, maintenance or
48 repair of hearing aids when that is not true, or using the words
49 "doctor," "clinic," "clinical," and/or "research audiologist,"
50 "audiologic," or any other like words, abbreviations or symbols
51 which tend to connote audiological or professional services, when
52 such use is not accurate.

53 (iv) Permitting another to use his license or
54 certificate or endorsement.

55 (v) Quoting prices of competitive hearing aids or
56 devices without disclosing that they are not the present current
57 prices, or showing, demonstrating, or representing competitive
58 models as being current models when such is not the fact.

59 (vi) Imitating or simulating the trademarks, trade
60 names, brands or labels of competitors with the capacity and
61 tendency or effect of misleading or deceiving purchasers or
62 prospective purchasers.

63 (vii) Defaming competitors by falsely imputing to
64 them dishonorable conduct, inability to perform contracts,
65 questionable credit standing, or by other false representations,
66 or falsely disparaging the products of competitors in any respect,
67 or their business methods, selling prices, values, credit terms,
68 policies or services.

69 (viii) Stating or implying that the use of any
70 hearing aid will restore or preserve hearing, prevent or retard
71 progression of a hearing impairment.

72 (ix) Dispensing and selling a hearing aid to a
73 child under the age of eighteen (18) years who has not been
74 examined and cleared for hearing aid use by a licensed physician
75 within a six-month period immediately prior to dispensing and
76 selling the hearing aid.

77 (x) Representing himself as being an audiologist
78 as defined in Section 73-38-3.

79 SECTION 3. Section 73-14-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
80 reenacted as follows:

81 73-14-5. (1) This chapter is not intended to prevent any
82 person from engaging in the practice of measuring human hearing

83 for the purpose of selection of hearing aids, provided such person
84 or organization employing such person does not sell hearing aids
85 or accessories thereto, except in the case of ear molds to be used
86 only for the purpose of audiologic evaluation.

87 (2) This chapter shall not apply to any physician or surgeon
88 licensed by the State of Mississippi.

89 (3) This chapter does not apply to a person while he is
90 engaged in the fitting of hearing aids, provided it is part of the
91 academic curriculum of an accredited institution of higher
92 education or part of a program conducted by a public tax-supported
93 institution or agency or nonprofit organization, unless such
94 person or institution or agency sells hearing aids, and/or
95 accessories, except ear molds.

96 SECTION 4. Section 73-14-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
97 reenacted as follows:

98 73-14-7. (1) The powers and duties of the Mississippi
99 State Board of Health under this chapter are as follows:

100 (a) To authorize all disbursements necessary to carry
101 out the provisions of this chapter.

102 (b) To supervise and administer qualifying examinations
103 to test the knowledge and proficiency of applicants for a license.

104 (c) To license persons who apply to the board and who
105 are qualified to practice the fitting, dispensing and selling of
106 hearing aids.

107 (d) To purchase and maintain or rent audiometric
108 equipment and facilities necessary to carry out the examination of
109 applicants for license.

110 (e) To issue and renew licenses and certificates of

111 endorsement.

112 (f) To suspend or revoke licenses and certificates of
113 endorsement pursuant to this chapter.

114 (g) To appoint representatives to conduct or supervise
115 the examining of applicants for license.

116 (h) To designate the time and place for examining
117 applicants for license.

118 (i) To make and publish rules and regulations not
119 inconsistent with the laws of this state which are necessary to
120 carry out the provisions of this chapter, in compliance with the
121 provisions of Section 25-43-1 et seq., Mississippi Code of 1972,
122 which is the Administrative Procedures Law.

123 (j) To require the periodic inspection and calibration
124 of audiometric testing equipment and to carry out the periodic
125 inspection of facilities of persons who practice the fitting or
126 selling of hearing aids.

127 (k) To establish minimum requirements of test
128 procedures and test equipment to be used in the fitting of hearing
129 aids pursuant to this chapter, also the retention of all fittings
130 and records of fittings by the dealer.

131 (2) The Hearing Aid Advisory Council appointed pursuant to
132 Section 73-14-7 is hereby continued and reconstituted as follows:

133 The council shall consist of seven (7) members, four (4) of
134 whom are licensed hearing aid specialists who do not currently
135 hold any other professional license regulated by the State Board
136 of Health, one (1) of whom is a licensed audiologist who holds an
137 ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology or its
138 equivalent, one (1) of whom is a licensed physician, board

139 certified in otolaryngology, and one (1) of whom is a person of
140 the board's own choosing from the state at large, and said person
141 shall be hearing impaired. The person of the board's choosing
142 shall not be a member of nor have personal interest in any
143 organization associated with hearing aid specialists.

144 The members of the council appointed and serving on July 1,
145 1992, shall complete the remainder of their current terms on the
146 council. Within sixty (60) days after July 1, 1992, the board
147 shall appoint two (2) additional members of the council, one (1)
148 member for two (2) years and one (1) member for three (3) years.
149 After the expiration of the original terms stated hereinabove, the
150 board shall appoint members of the council for terms of three (3)
151 years, beginning on July 1 of the year of appointment. No person
152 shall serve more than two (2) full consecutive terms. The
153 appointments of the two (2) additional members, who are to be
154 licensed hearing aid specialists, may be made from a list of at
155 least six (6) hearing aid specialists furnished by the Mississippi
156 Hearing Aid Dealer Association. Said specialists shall have
157 practiced and resided for at least three (3) years in the state.
158 No more than three (3) members shall be appointed to said council
159 from any one (1) Supreme Court district. The hearing aid
160 specialist appointments may be made from a list of at least three
161 (3) licensed hearing aid specialists furnished by the Mississippi
162 Hearing Aid Dealer Association, or its successor, for each vacancy
163 on the council, who have practiced and resided for three (3) years
164 in the state. The audiologist appointment may be made from a list
165 of at least three (3) licensed audiologists furnished by the
166 Mississippi Speech and Hearing Aid Association, who has practiced

167 and resided for three (3) years in the state. The licensed
168 physician appointment may be made from a list of at least three
169 (3) board certified otolaryngologists furnished by the Mississippi
170 Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Association, who has practiced and
171 resided for three (3) years in the state. Appointments to the
172 council to fill a vacancy occurring for other than expiration of a
173 term shall only be made for the remainder of the expired term.
174 The council shall promulgate such rules and regulations by which
175 it shall conduct its business. Members of the council shall
176 receive no salary for services performed on the council but may be
177 reimbursed for their reasonable and necessary actual expenses
178 incurred in the performance of the same, from funds provided for
179 such purpose. The council shall assist and advise the board in
180 the development of regulations and standards governing the
181 licensure of hearing aid dealers. Council members may be removed
182 from office if found guilty of any violation of any provision of
183 this chapter. A council member subject to formal disciplinary
184 proceedings shall disqualify himself from any council business
185 until the charge is resolved. A member must also disqualify
186 himself from any council business on which he may not make an
187 objective evaluation and/or decision.

188 SECTION 5. Section 73-14-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
189 reenacted as follows:

190 73-14-13. Any person who practices the fitting or dispensing
191 of hearing aids shall deliver to each person supplied with a
192 hearing aid, by him or at his order or direction, a bill of sale
193 which shall contain his signature and show the address of his
194 regular place of practice and the number of his license, together

195 with a description of the make and model of the hearing aid
196 furnished, the serial number of the hearing aid furnished, and the
197 amount charged therefor. The bill of sale shall also reveal the
198 condition of the hearing device and whether it is new, used or
199 rebuilt.

200 SECTION 6. Section 73-14-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
201 reenacted as follows:

202 73-14-15. No person shall engage in the sale or practice of
203 dispensing and fitting hearing aids or display a sign or in any
204 other way advertise or hold himself out as a person who practices
205 the dispensing and fitting of hearing aids unless he holds a
206 current, unsuspended, unrevoked license by the board as provided
207 in this chapter. The license required by this section shall be
208 kept conspicuously posted in his office or place of business at
209 all times.

210 SECTION 7. Section 73-14-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
211 reenacted as follows:

212 73-14-17. An applicant for a license shall pay a fee of One
213 Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) and shall show to the satisfaction of
214 the board that he:

215 (a) Is twenty-one (21) years of age or older.

216 (b) Has an education equivalent to a four-year course
217 in an accredited high school.

218 No governmental entity or agency shall be required to pay the
219 fee or fees set forth in this section.

220 Each application or filing made under this section shall
221 include the social security number(s) of the applicant in
222 accordance with Section 93-11-64, Mississippi Code of 1972.

223 SECTION 8. Section 73-14-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
224 reenacted as follows:

225 73-14-19. An applicant for a license who is notified by the
226 board that he has fulfilled the requirements of Section 73-14-17
227 and upon paying a testing fee determined by the department as
228 necessary to cover the expense of the administration of the
229 examination not to exceed One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00),
230 shall appear at a time, place and before such persons as the board
231 may designate, to be examined by written and practical test in
232 order to demonstrate that he is qualified to practice the fitting,
233 dispensing and selling of hearing aids.

234 SECTION 9. Section 73-14-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
235 reenacted as follows:

236 73-14-21. The examination provided in Section 73-14-19 shall
237 be selected by the board, with advice of the council, and may also
238 include an oral examination at the discretion of the board. The
239 tests under this section shall not include questions requiring a
240 medical or surgical education. It is the intent of this section
241 that the exams administered under this chapter be of such a level
242 as to provide that at a minimum an individual having a high school
243 education or its equivalent and with appropriate study, training
244 and supervision under the direction of a qualified hearing aid
245 specialist should be able to pass.

246 SECTION 10. Section 73-14-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
247 reenacted as follows:

248 73-14-23. The board shall register each applicant who
249 satisfactorily passes the examination and then issue such
250 applicant a license. The license shall be effective until July 1

251 next following issuance.

252 SECTION 11. Section 73-14-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
253 reenacted as follows:

254 73-14-25. The department may license as a hearing aid
255 specialist, and furnish a certificate of licensure, to any
256 applicant who presents evidence, satisfactory to the department of
257 having passed an examination before a similar lawfully authorized
258 examining agency or board of hearing aid specialists of another
259 state or the District of Columbia, if the standards for
260 registration of hearing aid specialists or for licensure as a
261 hearing aid specialist in such state or district are determined by
262 the department to be as high as those of this state, and if that
263 jurisdiction affords licensees of this state reciprocity.

264 Any person making application for licensure under the
265 provisions of this section may, at the discretion of the board, be
266 required to pass an examination selected by the board.

267 Any person holding a current and valid certificate of
268 endorsement on July 1, 1992, shall have said certificate converted
269 to a regular license. Such license shall be subject to all the
270 applicable provisions of this chapter as regards a regular
271 license.

272 SECTION 12. Section 73-14-27, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
273 reenacted as follows:

274 73-14-27. (1) An applicant who fulfills the requirements of
275 Section 73-14-17 and who has not previously applied to take the
276 examination provided under Section 73-14-19 may apply to the board
277 for a temporary license.

278 (2) Upon receiving an application provided under subsection

279 (1) of this section, the board shall issue a temporary license
280 which shall entitle the applicant to practice the fitting and
281 dispensing of hearing aids for a period ending thirty (30) days
282 after the conclusion of the next examination given after the date
283 of issue.

284 (3) No temporary license shall be issued by the board under
285 this section unless the applicant shows to the satisfaction of the
286 board that he is or will be supervised and trained by a person
287 who:

288 (a) Holds a current and valid document of being
289 National Board Certified in Hearing Instrument Sciences by the
290 International Hearing Society (IHS) or its successor; or

291 (b) Holds a current and valid Certificate of Clinical
292 Competence in Audiology from the American Speech-Language-Hearing
293 Association (ASHA); or

294 (c) Has had a minimum of three (3) years' experience in
295 the testing of hearing, fitting of hearing aids and dispensing of
296 hearing aids.

297 (4) If a person who holds a temporary license issued under
298 this section does not take the next examination given after the
299 date of issue, the temporary license shall not be renewed, except
300 for good cause shown to the satisfaction of the board.

301 (5) If a person who holds a temporary license issued under
302 this section takes and fails to pass the next examination given
303 after the date of issue, the board may renew the temporary license
304 for a period ending thirty (30) days after the date of renewal is
305 announced. In no event shall more than one (1) renewal be
306 permitted. The fee for renewal shall be Fifty Dollars (\$50.00).

307 SECTION 13. Section 73-14-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
308 reenacted as follows:

309 73-14-31. A person who practices the fitting and dispensing
310 of hearing aids shall biennially pay to the board a fee of Two
311 Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) for a renewal of his license. A grace
312 period of thirty (30) days shall be allowed after the expiration
313 of a license, during which the same may be renewed on payment of a
314 fee of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) to the board. The license of
315 any person who fails to have his license renewed by the expiration
316 of the grace period of thirty (30) days shall be considered to
317 have lapsed. After the expiration of the grace period, the board
318 may reinstate a license upon payment of a fee of Two Hundred Fifty
319 Dollars (\$250.00) to the board. No person who applies for
320 reinstatement, whose license was suspended for the sole reason of
321 failure to renew, shall be required to submit to any examination
322 as a condition of reinstatement, provided such person applies for
323 reinstatement within one (1) year from the date of lapse of the
324 license.

325 The board shall require the applicant for license renewal to
326 present evidence of the satisfactory completion of continuing
327 education requirements as determined by the board.

328 In the event that any licensee shall fail to meet the annual
329 educational requirement, his license shall not be renewed by the
330 board, but the board may renew the license upon the presentation
331 of satisfactory evidence of educational study of a standard
332 approved by the board and upon the payment of all fees due. No
333 governmental entity or agency shall be required to pay the fee or
334 fees set forth in this section.

335 SECTION 14. Section 73-14-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
336 reenacted as follows:

337 73-14-33. A person who holds a license or temporary license
338 shall notify the board in writing of the address of the place or
339 places where he engages or intends to engage in the practice of
340 fitting or dispensing of hearing aids.

341 The board shall keep a record of the places of practice of
342 persons who hold licenses or temporary licenses. Any notice
343 required to be given by the board to a person who holds a license
344 or temporary license may be given by mailing it to him at the
345 address given by him to the board.

346 A person who holds a license or temporary license to practice
347 as a hearing aid specialist in this state but whose principal
348 place of business is not in this state shall certify to the board
349 that they will:

350 (a) Display their Mississippi license while conducting
351 business in Mississippi; and

352 (b) Shall make all records regarding clients who are
353 residents of Mississippi available to the licensing authority
354 within seventy-two (72) hours of receiving such a request in
355 writing.

356 Failure to comply with the requirements of (a) or (b) above
357 shall constitute grounds for disciplinary action under the
358 provisions of this chapter and/or rules and regulations
359 promulgated pursuant to this chapter.

360 SECTION 15. Section 73-14-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
361 reenacted as follows:

362 73-14-35. (1) Any person registered under this chapter may

363 have his license or certificate revoked or suspended for a fixed
364 period to be determined by the board for any of the following
365 causes:

366 (a) Being convicted of an offense involving moral
367 turpitude. The record of such conviction, or certified copy
368 thereof from the clerk of the court where such conviction occurred
369 or by the judge of that court, shall be sufficient evidence to
370 warrant revocation or suspension.

371 (b) By securing a license or certificate under this
372 chapter through fraud or deceit.

373 (c) For unethical conduct or for gross ignorance or
374 inefficiency in the conduct of his practice.

375 (d) For knowingly practicing while suffering with a
376 contagious or infectious disease.

377 (e) For the use of a false name or alias in the
378 practice of his profession.

379 (f) For violating any of the provisions of this chapter
380 or any rules or regulations promulgated pursuant to this chapter.

381 (g) For violating the provisions of any applicable
382 federal laws or regulations.

383 (h) Discipline by another jurisdiction if at least one
384 (1) of the grounds for the discipline is the same or substantially
385 equivalent to those set forth in this chapter or rules and
386 regulations promulgated pursuant to this chapter.

387 (2) In addition to the causes specified in subsection (1) of
388 this section, the board shall be authorized to suspend the license
389 of any licensee for being out of compliance with an order for
390 support, as defined in Section 93-11-153. The procedure for

391 suspension of a license for being out of compliance with an order
392 for support, and the procedure for the reissuance or reinstatement
393 of a license suspended for that purpose, and the payment of any
394 fees for the reissuance or reinstatement of a license suspended
395 for that purpose, shall be governed by Section 93-11-157 or
396 93-11-163, as the case may be. If there is any conflict between
397 any provision of Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163 and any provision
398 of this chapter, the provisions of Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163,
399 as the case may be, shall control.

400 SECTION 16. Section 73-14-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
401 reenacted as follows:

402 73-14-37. (1) Any person, whose license is sought to be
403 revoked under the provisions of this chapter, shall be given
404 thirty (30) days' notice, in writing, enumerating the charges and
405 specifying a date for public hearing thereon. The hearing shall
406 be held in the county where the person's business is conducted.
407 The board may issue subpoenas, compel the attendance and testimony
408 of witnesses, and place them under oath, the same as any court of
409 competent jurisdiction where the hearing takes place.

410 (2) At all hearings the board may designate in writing one
411 or more persons deemed competent by the board to conduct the
412 hearing as trial examiner or trial committee, with the decision to
413 be rendered in accordance with the provisions of subsection (3) of
414 this section.

415 (3) After a hearing has been completed the trial examiner or
416 trial committee who conducted the hearing shall proceed to
417 consider the case and, as soon as practicable, shall render a
418 decision. In any case, the decision must be rendered within sixty

419 (60) days after the hearing. The decision shall contain:

420 (a) The findings of fact made by the trial examiner or
421 trial committee;

422 (b) Conclusions of law reached by the trial examiner or
423 trial committee; and

424 (c) The order based upon these findings of fact and
425 conclusions of law.

426 SECTION 17. Section 73-14-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
427 reenacted as follows:

428 73-14-39. (1) From any revocation, the person charged may,
429 within thirty (30) days thereof, appeal to the chancery court of
430 the county of the residence of the licensee.

431 (2) Notice of appeals shall be filed in the office of the
432 clerk of the court, who shall issue a writ of certiorari directed
433 to the board, commanding it within ten (10) days after service
434 thereof to certify to such court its entire record in the matter
435 in which the appeal has been taken. The appeal shall thereupon be
436 heard in the due course by said court without a jury, and the
437 court shall review the record and make its determination of the
438 cause between the parties.

439 (3) Any order, rule or decision of the board shall not take
440 effect until after the time of appeal in the said court shall have
441 expired. If there is an appeal, such appeal may, in the
442 discretion of and on motion to the chancery court, act as a
443 supersedeas. The chancery court shall dispose of the appeal and
444 enter its decision promptly. The hearing on the appeal may, in
445 the discretion of the chancellor, be tried in vacation.

446 (4) Any person taking an appeal shall post a satisfactory

447 bond in the amount of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) for payment of
448 any costs which may be adjudged against him.

449 (5) Actions taken by the board in suspending a certificate
450 of registration when required by Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163
451 are not actions from which an appeal may be taken under this
452 section. Any appeal of a suspension of a certificate that is
453 required by Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163 shall be taken in
454 accordance with the appeal procedure specified in Section
455 93-11-157 or 93-11-163, as the case may be, rather than the
456 procedure specified in this section.

457 SECTION 18. Section 73-14-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
458 reenacted as follows:

459 73-14-41. No person may:

460 (a) Sell, barter or offer to sell or barter a license.

461 (b) Purchase or procure by barter a license with intent
462 to use it as evidence of the holder's qualifications to practice
463 the fitting and dispensing of hearing aids.

464 (c) Alter materially a license with fraudulent intent.

465 (d) Use or attempt to use as a valid license one which
466 has been purchased, fraudulently obtained, counterfeited or
467 materially altered.

468 (e) Willfully make a false material statement in an
469 application for registration or for renewal of a license.

470 SECTION 19. Section 73-14-43, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
471 reenacted as follows:

472 73-14-43. Violation of any provision of this chapter is a
473 misdemeanor punishable upon conviction by a fine of not less than
474 One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) nor more than Five Hundred Dollars

475 (\$500.00), or by imprisonment for not more than ninety (90) days
476 in the county jail, or by both.

477 SECTION 20. Section 73-14-45, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
478 reenacted as follows:

479 73-14-45. The board may enforce any provisions of this
480 chapter by injunction or by any other appropriate proceeding. No
481 such proceeding shall be barred by any proceeding had or pending
482 pursuant to any other section of this chapter, and the authority
483 conferred in this chapter is in addition to and supplementary to
484 any other statute, civil or criminal, dealing with the subject
485 matters herein and the institution and prosecution of any action
486 shall not preclude the institution and prosecution under other
487 appropriate civil or criminal statutes dealing therewith.

488 SECTION 21. Section 73-14-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
489 reenacted as follows:

490 73-14-47. All fees and monies received by the board under
491 this chapter shall be deposited in a special fund hereby created
492 in the State Treasury and shall be used for the implementation and
493 administration of this chapter when appropriated by the
494 Legislature for such purpose.

495 SECTION 22. Section 73-14-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
496 amended as follows:

497 73-14-49. Sections 73-14-1 through 73-14-47, Mississippi
498 Code of 1972, which provide for the licensure and regulation of
499 hearing aid specialists by the State Board of Health, shall stand
500 repealed as of July 1, 2001.

501 SECTION 23. This act shall take effect and be in force from
502 and after July 1, 2000.