

By: Moody

To: Public Health and
Welfare

HOUSE BILL NO. 846

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT THE STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE
2 SHALL LICENSE AND REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS;
3 TO SPECIFY THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS THAT MUST BE MET TO BE
4 LICENSED AS A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT; TO DIRECT THE BOARD TO ADOPT
5 REGULATIONS TO REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS; TO
6 PROVIDE FOR THE MINIMUM COMPOSITION OF ANY TASK FORCE APPOINTED BY
7 THE BOARD TO ADDRESS PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT REGULATION; TO AMEND
8 SECTION 73-43-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM TO THE
9 PRECEDING PROVISIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 SECTION 1. As used in the act:

12 (a) "Board" means the State Board of Medical Licensure.

13 (b) "Physician assistant" means a person who meets the
14 board's criteria for licensure as a physician assistant and is
15 licensed as a physician assistant by the board. Nothing in this
16 act authorizes the licensure of anesthesiologist's assistants.

17 (c) "Supervising physician" means a doctor of medicine
18 or a doctor of osteopathic medicine who holds an unrestricted
19 license from the board, and who is in the full-time practice of
20 medicine and who has been approved by the board to supervise
21 physician assistants.

22 (d) "Supervision" means overseeing and accepting
23 responsibility for the medical services rendered by a physician
24 assistant in a manner approved by the board.

25 SECTION 2. (1) The State Board of Medical Licensure shall
26 license and regulate the practice of physician assistants in
27 accordance with the provisions of this act.

28 (2) All physician assistants who are employed as physician
29 assistants by a Department of Veterans Affairs health care

30 facility, a branch of the United States military, or the Federal
31 Bureau of Prisons, and who are practicing as physician assistants
32 in a federal facility in Mississippi on July 1, 2000, shall be
33 eligible for licensure if they submit an application for licensure
34 to the board by December 31, 2000. Physician assistants licensed
35 under this subsection will be eligible for license renewal so long
36 as they meet standard renewal requirements.

37 (3) Before December 31, 2004, applicants for physician
38 assistant licensure, except those licensed under subsection (2) of
39 this section, must be graduates of physician assistant educational
40 programs accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied
41 Health Educational Programs or its predecessor or successor
42 agency, have passed the certification examination administered by
43 the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants
44 (NCCPA), have current NCCPA certification, and possess a minimum
45 of a baccalaureate degree. Physician assistants meeting these
46 licensure requirements will be eligible for license renewal so
47 long as they meet standard renewal requirements.

48 (4) On or after December 31, 2004, applicants for physician
49 assistant licensure must meet all of the requirements in
50 subsection (3) of this section and, in addition, must have
51 obtained a minimum of a master's degree in a health-related or
52 science field.

53 (5) For new graduate physician assistants and all physician
54 assistants receiving initial licenses in the state, except those
55 licensed under subsection (2) of this section, supervision shall
56 require the on-site presence of a supervising physician for one
57 hundred twenty (120) days.

58 SECTION 3. (1) The board shall promulgate and publish
59 reasonable rules and regulations necessary to enable it to
60 discharge its functions and to enforce the provisions of law
61 regulating the practice of physician assistants. Those rules
62 shall include, but are not limited to: qualifications for
63 licensure for physician assistants; scope of practice of physician
64 assistants; supervision of physician assistants; identification of
65 physician assistants; grounds for disciplinary actions and
66 discipline of physician assistants; and setting and charging

67 reasonable fees for licensure and license renewals for physician
68 assistants. However, nothing in this act or in rules adopted by
69 the board shall authorize physician assistants to administer or
70 monitor general inhaled anesthesia, epidural anesthesia, spinal
71 anesthesia, or monitored anesthesia as utilized in surgical
72 procedures.

73 (2) If the board appoints a task force or committee to
74 address physician assistant regulation, at least one (1) member of
75 the task force shall be a nurse practitioner who is a member of
76 the Mississippi Board of Nursing or a nurse practitioner appointee
77 selected by the board from a list of three (3) recommendations
78 submitted by the Mississippi Nurses Association, and at least one
79 (1) member shall be a physician assistant selected by the board
80 from a list of three (3) recommendations submitted by the
81 Mississippi Academy of Physician Assistants.

82 SECTION 4. Section 73-43-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
83 amended as follows:

84 73-43-11. The State Board of Medical Licensure shall have
85 the following powers and responsibilities:

86 (a) Setting policies and professional standards
87 regarding the medical practice of physicians, osteopaths,
88 podiatrists and physician assistants practicing with physician
89 supervision;

90 (b) Considering applications for licensure;

91 (c) Conducting examinations for licensure;

92 (d) Investigating alleged violations of the medical
93 practice act;

94 (e) Conducting hearings on disciplinary matters
95 involving violations of state and federal law, probation,
96 suspension and revocation of licenses;

97 (f) Considering petitions for termination of
98 probationary and suspension periods, and restoration of revoked
99 licenses;

100 (g) To promulgate and publish reasonable rules and
101 regulations necessary to enable it to discharge its functions and
102 to enforce the provisions of law regulating the practice of
103 medicine; * * *

104 (h) To enter into contracts with any other state or
105 federal agency, or with any private person, organization or group
106 capable of contracting, if it finds such action to be in the
107 public interest and in the furtherance of its responsibilities;
108 and

109 (i) Perform the duties prescribed by Sections 1 through
110 3 of this act.

111 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from
112 and after July 1, 2000.