

By: Moody

To: Public Health and
Welfare

HOUSE BILL NO. 846
(As Sent to Governor)

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, and those
33 physician assistants who trained in a Mississippi physician
34 assistant program and have been continuously practicing as a
35 physician assistant in Mississippi since 1976, shall be eligible
36 for licensure if they submit an application for licensure to the
37 board by December 31, 2000. Physician assistants licensed under
38 this subsection will be eligible for license renewal so long as
39 they meet standard renewal requirements.

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

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

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

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

67 assistants; supervision of physician assistants; identification of
68 physician assistants; grounds for disciplinary actions and
69 discipline of physician assistants; and setting and charging
70 reasonable fees for licensure and license renewals for physician
71 assistants. However, nothing in this act or in rules adopted by
72 the board shall authorize physician assistants to administer or
73 monitor general inhaled anesthesia, epidural anesthesia, spinal
74 anesthesia, or monitored anesthesia as utilized in surgical
75 procedures.

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

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

87 73-43-11. The State Board of Medical Licensure shall have
88 the following powers and responsibilities:

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

93 (b) Considering applications for licensure;

94 (c) Conducting examinations for licensure;

95 (d) Investigating alleged violations of the medical
96 practice act;

97 (e) Conducting hearings on disciplinary matters
98 involving violations of state and federal law, probation,
99 suspension and revocation of licenses;

100 (f) Considering petitions for termination of
101 probationary and suspension periods, and restoration of revoked
102 licenses;

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

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

112 (i) Perform the duties prescribed by Sections 1 through
113 3 of this act.

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