

By: Huggins

To: Public Health and  
Welfare

SENATE BILL NO. 2548

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE LICENSURE OF  
2 PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS; TO PROVIDE DEFINITIONS; TO AUTHORIZE THE  
3 STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE TO PROMULGATE RULES AND  
4 REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE PRACTICE OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS; TO  
5 AMEND SECTION 73-43-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY  
6 THERETO; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 SECTION 1. (1) As used in this act:

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

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

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

19 (d) "Supervision" means overseeing and accepting  
20 responsibility for the medical services rendered by a physician  
21 assistant in a manner approved by the board. For new graduate  
22 physician assistants and all physician assistants receiving  
23 initial licenses in the state, except those licensed under

24 subsection (2), supervision will require the on-site presence of a  
25 supervising physician for one hundred twenty (120) days.

26 (2) All physician assistants who are employed as physician  
27 assistants by a Department of Veterans Affairs health care  
28 facility or a branch of the United States military or the Federal  
29 Bureau of Prisons and are practicing as PAs in a federal facility  
30 in Mississippi on the date of enactment will be eligible for  
31 licensure if they submit an application for licensure to the board  
32 by December 31, 2000. Physician assistants licensed under this  
33 provision will be eligible for license renewal so long as they  
34 meet standard renewal requirements.

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

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

50 SECTION 2. The board shall promulgate and publish reasonable  
51 rules and regulations necessary to enable it to discharge its  
52 functions and to enforce the provisions of law regulating the  
53 practice of physician assistants. Such rules shall include, but  
54 are not limited to: qualifications for licensure for physician

55 assistants, scope of practice of physician assistants, supervision  
56 of physician assistants, identification of physician assistants,  
57 and grounds for disciplinary actions and discipline of physician  
58 assistants. However, nothing in this act nor in rules adopted by  
59 the board shall authorize physician assistants to administer or  
60 monitor general inhaled anesthesia, epidural anesthesia, spinal  
61 anesthesia, or monitored anesthesia as utilized in surgical  
62 procedures. Should the board appoint a task force or committee to  
63 address physician assistant regulation at least one (1) member of  
64 the task force shall be a nurse practitioner who is a member of  
65 the Mississippi Board of Nursing or a nurse practitioner appointee  
66 selected by the board from a list of three (3) recommendations  
67 submitted by the Mississippi Nurses Association and at least one  
68 (1) member shall be a physician assistant selected by the board  
69 from a list of three (3) recommendations submitted by the  
70 Mississippi Academy of Physician Assistants.

71 SECTION 3. Section 73-43-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
72 amended as follows:[LR1]

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

75 (a) Setting policies and professional standards  
76 regarding the medical practice of physicians, osteopaths,  
77 podiatrists and physician assistants practicing with physician  
78 supervision;

79 (b) Considering applications for licensure;

80 (c) Conducting examinations for licensure;

81 (d) Investigating alleged violations of the medical  
82 practice act;

83           (e) Conducting hearings on disciplinary matters  
84 involving violations of state and federal law, probation,  
85 suspension and revocation of licenses;

86           (f) Considering petitions for termination of  
87 probationary and suspension periods, and restoration of revoked  
88 licenses;

89           (g) To promulgate and publish reasonable rules and  
90 regulations necessary to enable it to discharge its functions and  
91 to enforce the provisions of law regulating the practice of  
92 medicine; and

93           (h) To enter into contracts with any other state or  
94 federal agency, or with any private person, organization or group  
95 capable of contracting, if it finds such action to be in the  
96 public interest and in the furtherance of its responsibilities;  
97 and

98           (i) Perform the duties prescribed by Sections 1 through  
99 3 of this act.

100           SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
101 and after July 1, 2000.