

By: Representative Moody

To: Universities and
Colleges; Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1246

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-143-6, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO EXPAND THE MEDICAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ESTABLISHED IN
3 2000 TO INCLUDE A LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED
4 PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 37-143-6, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 37-143-6. (1) There is established a medical education
9 scholarship and loan repayment program, which shall be
10 administered by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of
11 Higher Learning. The program shall provide a certain number of
12 eligible applicants each year with a full scholarship to obtain a
13 medical education at the University of Mississippi School of
14 Medicine at no cost to the recipient, if the recipient meets the
15 conditions upon which the scholarship is granted.

16 (2) The program shall provide scholarships to up to twenty
17 (20) new recipients each year, and the program shall be funded
18 from monies appropriated from the Health Care Expendable Fund
19 established under Section 43-13-407 and from any other funds
20 appropriated to or otherwise made available to the board of
21 trustees for that purpose. The amounts that may be expended
22 annually for scholarships under the program shall not exceed the
23 following: Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) in fiscal
24 year 2001; One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) in fiscal year
25 2002; One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000.00) in
26 fiscal year 2003; and Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) in
27 fiscal year 2004 and in any later fiscal year.

28 (3) The scholarship shall be in an amount that will pay the
29 full cost of attendance, as defined by federal law and regulation,
30 at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine for the entire
31 time necessary for the recipient to complete the requirements for
32 a medical degree. The actual amount of the scholarship shall be
33 determined by the Office of Financial Aid of the University of
34 Mississippi Medical Center but shall not exceed Twenty-five
35 Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) per year for any recipient.

36 (4) Before being granted a scholarship, each applicant shall
37 enter into a contract with the board of trustees, which shall be
38 deemed a contract with the State of Mississippi, agreeing to the
39 terms and conditions upon which the scholarship will be granted.
40 In order to receive a scholarship under the program, the recipient
41 must agree in the contract to practice family medicine for a
42 period of not less than ten (10) years after completion of his or
43 her residency in an area of the state that is a critical needs
44 area for primary medical care at the time of the recipient's entry
45 into medical practice. The determination and designation of the
46 areas of the state that are critical needs areas for primary
47 medical care shall be made by a committee to be known as the
48 Medical Care Critical Needs Committee, which shall be composed of
49 the following persons: the Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs of
50 the University of Mississippi Medical Center, who shall be
51 chairman of the committee; the Executive Director of the State
52 Department of Health; the Executive Director of the Division of
53 Medicaid; the President of the Mississippi State Medical
54 Association or his designee; the President of the Mississippi
55 State Hospital Association or his designee; the President of the
56 Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians; and the Executive
57 Director of the Mississippi Primary Health Care Association. The
58 committee shall meet at least once annually to determine and
59 designate the areas of the state that are critical needs areas for

60 primary medical care in which scholarship recipients may practice
61 family medicine in order to fulfill their contractual obligation.

62 (5) If a scholarship recipient leaves the University of
63 Mississippi School of Medicine before graduation, or leaves his or
64 her residency before completion, or fails to practice family
65 medicine for a period of ten (10) years in a critical needs area
66 for primary medical care as designated by the Medical Care
67 Critical Needs Committee under subsection (4) of this section, the
68 full amount that the recipient received under the scholarship
69 shall be due and payable within ninety (90) days, together with
70 interest. The amount of interest due shall be equal to the annual
71 rate of return on the Health Care Trust Fund established under
72 Section 43-13-405 for each year from the time the recipient
73 received the scholarship money until the time the scholarship
74 money is repaid. The board of trustees may bring suit against any
75 scholarship recipient to recover the amount due to the state under
76 this section for the recipient's failure to comply with the
77 conditions upon which the scholarship was granted, as provided in
78 this section and in the contract between the recipient and the
79 board of trustees. The board of trustees is authorized to
80 postpone or forgive the repayment of all or part of the amount
81 that a recipient received under the scholarship and the interest
82 that would otherwise be due under this subsection if the
83 recipient's failure to comply with the conditions upon which the
84 scholarship was granted was due to circumstances beyond the
85 recipient's control that caused the recipient to be physically
86 unable to comply with those conditions, such as suffering a severe
87 illness, injury or other disabling condition.

88 (6) The board of trustees shall establish such rules and
89 regulations as it deems necessary and proper to carry out the
90 purposes and intent of this section.

91 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
92 and after July 1, 2001.