

By: Senator(s) Huggins, Thames

To: Public Health and Welfare

SENATE BILL NO. 2241

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 73-25-23, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A LIMITED PHYSICIANS LICENSE TO A
3 GRADUATE OF A FOREIGN MEDICAL SCHOOL WHO HAS BEEN EMPLOYED TO
4 PRACTICE MEDICINE IN A STATE-SUPPORTED INSTITUTION FOR 30 YEARS
5 AND IS PRESENTLY SERVING AS DIRECTOR OF A STATE HOSPITAL; AND FOR
6 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 SECTION 1. Section 73-25-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 73-25-23. The State Board of Medical Licensure is hereby
11 authorized and empowered to grant limited institutional license
12 for the practice of medicine in state institutions to graduates of
13 foreign medical colleges approved by the National Educational
14 Council for Foreign Medical Graduates or its successor, subject to
15 the conditions as set out herein.

16 Any graduate of a foreign medical college approved by the
17 organizations specified in the foregoing paragraph who is employed
18 or is being considered for employment to practice medicine in one
19 or more Mississippi state-supported institution(s) located in the
20 same county shall make application for license to the State Board
21 of Medical Licensure. The application shall be made on a form
22 prescribed by the Board of Medical Licensure as required by laws
23 of the State of Mississippi. The application shall also state the
24 institution or institutions in which the applicant has assurance
25 of employment. The State Board of Medical Licensure is hereby
26 authorized to establish minimum standards of qualifications
27 including moral, experience and proficiency for such applicants.
28 The application and the board's recommendation shall be forwarded

29 to the board of trustees and director of the institution(s) in
30 which the applicant wishes to practice.

31 Upon receipt of such approved application from the State
32 Board of Medical Licensure, the board of trustees or the governing
33 authority and director of the institution or health center shall
34 submit the application for review to the local medical society,
35 the member of the Board of Trustees of the State Medical
36 Association of that district and the member of the State Board of
37 Medical Licensure of the district in which the institution is
38 located. A formal recommendation from each of these, along with
39 that of the board of trustees and director of the institution,
40 shall become a part of the application, and shall then be returned
41 to the State Board of Medical Licensure. If a majority of the
42 recommendations are in favor of the applicant, the State Board of
43 Medical Licensure may, in its discretion, issue a limited license
44 to practice medicine. The holder of such a license shall be
45 subject to all the laws of the State of Mississippi governing the
46 practice of medicine.

47 Such license shall be for one (1) year and shall be in such
48 form as the State Board of Medical Licensure shall prescribe, and
49 shall be issued for practice in a particular institution and shall
50 not be endorsable to another state. The license must be renewed
51 annually, after such review as the State Board of Medical
52 Licensure considers necessary. A graduate of a foreign medical
53 school so licensed may hold such limited institutional license no
54 longer than five (5) years. However, any graduate of a foreign
55 medical school so licensed and employed by any state institution
56 on January 1, 1981, shall not be subject to the five-year
57 limitation created hereby, and the State Board of Medical
58 Licensure, in its discretion, may waive the five-year limitation
59 on limited institutional licenses for any other graduate of a
60 foreign medical school who holds such license.

61 It is the intent of this section to enable Mississippi
62 institutions to utilize the services of qualified graduates of
63 foreign medical colleges during the period necessary for them to
64 secure citizenship papers, and to meet other requirements for a
65 regular license, including Educational Council for Foreign Medical
66 Graduates certification. The State Board of Medical Licensure is
67 hereby authorized, in its discretion, to refuse to renew, or to
68 revoke such limited license if the holder of such license has
69 failed to avail himself of the opportunity to take the examination
70 for regular licensure after becoming eligible for such
71 examination.

72 The State Board of Medical Licensure may establish reasonable
73 and uniform license fees and shall make such rules and regulations
74 as it considers necessary to carry out the purposes of this
75 section.

76 The State Board of Medical Licensure is hereby authorized and
77 directed to grant a limited license for the practice of medicine
78 under the supervision of a licensed physician to a graduate of a
79 foreign medical school approved under this section who has been
80 employed to practice medicine in one or more Mississippi
81 state-supported institutions for a thirty-year period of time and
82 who on July 1, 2001, is serving as director of a Mississippi
83 state-supported hospital. For purposes of this paragraph,
84 "supervising physician" means a doctor of medicine or a doctor of
85 osteopathic medicine who holds an unrestricted license from the
86 board, who is in the full-time practice of medicine and who has
87 been approved by the board to supervise physician assistants; and
88 "supervision" means overseeing and accepting responsibility for
89 the medical services rendered by the holder of the limited license
90 authorized hereunder in the manner approved by the board for
91 physician assistants.

92 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
93 and after its passage.