

By: Senator(s) Smith

To: Public Health and Welfare

SENATE BILL NO. 2492

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 41-4-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 ADD A NURSE MEMBER TO THE STATE BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH; AND FOR
3 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 41-4-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 41-4-3. (1) There is * * * created a State Board of Mental
8 Health, herein referred to as "board," consisting of ten (10)
9 members, to be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and
10 consent of the Senate, each of whom shall be a qualified elector.
11 One (1) member shall be appointed from each congressional district
12 as presently constituted; and five (5) members shall be appointed
13 from the state-at-large, one (1) of whom shall be a licensed
14 medical doctor who is a psychiatrist; one (1) of whom shall hold a
15 Ph.D. degree and be a licensed clinical psychologist; one (1) of
16 whom shall be a licensed medical doctor; one (1) of whom shall be
17 a social worker with experience in the mental health field; and
18 one (1) of whom shall be a nurse who has psychiatric/mental health
19 nursing certification or who is a psychiatric/mental health nurse
20 practitioner. The Mississippi Nurses Association shall submit a
21 list of three (3) names for each appointment of the nurse member
22 for consideration by the Governor in making the appointment.

23 No more than two (2) members of the board shall be appointed
24 from any one (1) congressional district as presently constituted.

25 Each member of the initial board shall serve for a term of
26 years represented by the number of his congressional district; two
27 (2) state-at-large members shall serve for a term of six (6)

28 years; two (2) state-at-large members shall serve for a term of
29 seven (7) years. The first nurse member of the board will serve
30 for a term of four (4) years, beginning on July 1, 2001.

31 Subsequent appointments shall be for seven-year terms from the
32 expiration date of the previous term, and the Governor shall fill
33 any vacancy for the unexpired term.

34 The board shall elect a chairman whose term of office shall
35 be one (1) year and until his successor shall be elected.

36 (2) Each board member shall be entitled to a per diem as is
37 authorized by law and all actual and necessary expenses, including
38 mileage as provided by law, incurred in the discharge of official
39 duties.

40 (3) The board shall hold regular meetings monthly and such
41 special meetings deemed necessary, except that no action shall be
42 taken unless there is present a quorum of at least six (6)
43 members.

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