

By: Senator(s) Huggins

To: Public Health and Welfare

SENATE BILL NO. 2552

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 73-15-18, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO RENAME AND CLARIFY THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OFFICE OF
3 NURSING WORKFORCE IN THE MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF NURSING; AND FOR
4 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 73-15-18, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 73-15-18. (1) The Mississippi Board of Nursing is
9 designated as the state agency responsible for the administration
10 and supervision of the Nursing Workforce * * * Program as an
11 educational curriculum in the State of Mississippi. It is the
12 intent of the Legislature to develop a nursing workforce able to
13 carry out the scope of service and leadership tasks required of
14 the profession by promoting a strong educational infrastructure
15 between nursing practice and nursing education.

16 (2) The Mississippi Board of Nursing is authorized to
17 establish an Office of Nursing Workforce * * * within the
18 administrative framework of the board for the purpose of providing
19 coordination and consultation to nursing education and practice.
20 The Nursing Workforce * * * Program shall encompass four (4)
21 interdependent components:

22 (a) Develop and implement a state educational program
23 directed toward nursing educators regarding health care delivery
24 system changes resulting from managed care, case management and
25 capitated health finance systems and the impact these changes will
26 have on curriculum and on the retraining needs of nurses.

27 (b) Determine the continuing education needs of the
28 nursing workforce in an environment of restructuring from the
29 hospital-bed-side setting to the home health and community
30 practice settings, and implement such continuing education
31 coursework through the university/college schools of nursing in
32 the state and the community/junior college nursing programs in the
33 state.

34 (c) Promote and coordinate through the schools of
35 nursing opportunities for nurses prepared at the associate degree
36 and bachelor degree levels to obtain higher degrees.

37 (d) Apply for and administer grants from public and
38 private sources for the development of the Nursing Workforce * * *
39 Program prescribed herein.

40 (e) Establish systems to ensure an adequate supply of
41 nurses to meet the health care needs of the citizens of
42 Mississippi. This will include, but is not limited to, gathering
43 and quantifying dependable data on current nursing workforce
44 capacities and to forecast future requirements. The Office of
45 Nursing Workforce will report findings annually to the Mississippi
46 Legislature.

47 (3) Pursuant to the provisions of subsections (1) and (2),
48 and subject to the availability of funds specifically appropriated
49 therefor by the Legislature, the Board of Nursing is authorized to
50 provide for the services of an Office of Nursing Workforce * * *
51 Director and such other professional and nonprofessional staff as
52 may be needed and as funds are available to the Board of Nursing
53 to implement the Nursing Workforce * * * Program prescribed
54 herein. It shall be the responsibility of such professional staff
55 to coordinate efforts of the bachelor degree schools of nursing,
56 the associate degree schools of nursing and other appropriate
57 agencies in the State of Mississippi to implement the Nursing
58 Workforce * * * Program.

59 (4) The Board of Nursing shall appoint a Nursing
60 Workforce * * * Advisory Committee composed of health care
61 professionals, health agency administrators, nursing educators and
62 other appropriate individuals to provide technical advice to the
63 Office of Nursing Workforce * * * created herein. The members of
64 said committee shall be appointed by the Board of Nursing from a
65 list of nominees submitted by appropriate nursing and health care
66 organizations in the State of Mississippi. The members of said
67 committee shall receive no compensation for their services, but
68 may be reimbursed for actual travel expenses and mileage
69 authorized by law for necessary committee business.

70 (5) All funds made available to the Board of Nursing for the
71 purpose of nursing workforce * * * shall be administered by the
72 board office for that purpose. The Board of Nursing is authorized
73 to enter into contract with any private person, organization or
74 entity capable of contracting for the purpose of administering
75 this section.

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