

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.