HOUSE BILL NO. 946
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 73-25-14, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO ALLOW PHYSICIANS TO RENEW THEIR MEDICAL LICENSE THROUGH
3 ELECTRONIC MEANS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.
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5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:
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7 SECTION 1. Section 73-25-14, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:
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10 73-25-14. (1) The license of every person licensed to
11 practice medicine or osteopathy in the State of Mississippi shall
12 be renewed annually.
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14 On or before May 1 of each year, the State Board of Medical
15 Licensure shall mail an application for renewal of license to
16 every physician or osteopath to whom a license was issued or
17 renewed during the current licensing year. The applicant shall
18 complete the application and return it to the board by mail or
19 electronic means before June 30 with the renewal fee of an amount
20 established by the board, but not to exceed Two Hundred Dollars
21 ($200.00), a portion of which fee shall be used to support a
22 program to aid impaired physicians and osteopaths. The payment of
23 the annual license renewal fee shall be optional with all
24 physicians over the age of seventy (70) years. Upon receipt of
25 the application and fee, the board shall verify the accuracy of
26 the application and issue to applicant a certificate or renewal
27 for the ensuing year, beginning July 1 and expiring June 30 of the
28 succeeding calendar year. That renewal shall render the holder
29 thereof a legal practitioner as stated on the renewal form.
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31 (2) Any physician or osteopath practicing in Mississippi who
32 allows his license to lapse by failing to renew the license as
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provided in subsection (1) may be reinstated by the board on satisfactory explanation for the failure to renew, by completion of a reinstatement form, and upon payment of the renewal fee for the current year, and shall be assessed a fine of Twenty-five Dollars ($25.00) plus an additional fine of Five Dollars ($5.00) for each month thereafter that the license renewal remains delinquent.

(3) Any physician or osteopath not practicing in Mississippi who allows his license to lapse by failing to renew the license as provided in subsection (1) may be reinstated by the board on satisfactory explanation for the failure to renew, by completion of a reinstatement form and upon payment of the arrearages for the previous five (5) years and the renewal fee for the current year.

(4) Any physician or osteopath who allows his license to lapse shall be notified by the board within thirty (30) days of such lapse.

(5) Any person practicing as a licensed physician or osteopath during the time his license has lapsed shall be considered an illegal practitioner and shall be subject to penalties provided for violation of the Medical Practice Act, provided he had not submitted the required reinstatement form and fee within fifteen (15) days after notification by the board of the lapse.

(6) Any physician or osteopath practicing in the State of Mississippi whose license has lapsed and is deemed an illegal practitioner under subsection (5) of this section may petition the board for reinstatement of his license on a retroactive basis, if the physician or osteopath was unable to meet the June 30 deadline due to extraordinary or other legitimate reasons, and retroactive reinstatement of licensure shall be granted or may be denied by the board only for good cause. Failure to advise the board of change of address shall not be considered a basis of reinstatement.
(7) None of the fees or fines provided for in this section shall be applicable to the renewal of a special volunteer medical license authorized under Section 73-25-18.

(8) Fees collected under the provisions of this section shall be used by the board to defray expenses of administering the licensure provisions of the Medical Practice Act (Title 73, Chapter 25, Mississippi Code of 1972) and to support a program to aid impaired physicians and osteopaths in an amount determined by the board.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2003.