HOUSE BILL NO. 1000

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 43-13-145, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO DIRECT THE DIVISION OF MEDICAID TO APPLY FOR A WAIVER FROM ASSESSMENT LEVIED ON CERTAIN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES, UPON THE WRITTEN REQUEST OF ANY NONPROFIT, PUBLIC, CHARITABLE OR RELIGIOUS FACILITY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Section 43-13-145, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

43-13-145. (1) (a) Upon each nursing facility and each intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded licensed by the State of Mississippi, there is levied an assessment in the amount of Three Dollars ($3.00) per day for each licensed and/or certified bed of the facility. The division promptly shall apply for a waiver from the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services to exempt nonprofit, public, charitable or religious facilities from the assessment levied under this subsection, upon the written request of any such nonprofit, public, charitable or religious facilities, and if a waiver is granted, those facilities shall be exempt from any assessment levied under this subsection after the date that the division receives notice that the waiver has been granted.

(b) A nursing facility or intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded is exempt from the assessment levied under this subsection if the facility is operated under the direction and control of:

(i) The United States Veterans Administration or other agency or department of the United States government;

(ii) The State Veterans Affairs Board;
(iii) The University of Mississippi Medical Center; or

(iv) A state agency or a state facility that either provides its own state match through intergovernmental transfer or certification of funds to the division.

(2) (a) Upon each psychiatric residential treatment facility licensed by the State of Mississippi, there is levied an assessment in the amount of Three Dollars ($3.00) per day for each licensed and/or certified bed of the facility.

(b) A psychiatric residential treatment facility is exempt from the assessment levied under this subsection if the facility is operated under the direction and control of:

(i) The United States Veterans Administration or other agency or department of the United States government;

(ii) The University of Mississippi Medical Center;

(iii) A state agency or a state facility that either provides its own state match through intergovernmental transfer or certification of funds to the division.

(3) (a) Upon each hospital licensed by the State of Mississippi, there is levied an assessment in the amount of One Dollar and Fifty Cents ($1.50) per day for each licensed inpatient acute care bed of the hospital.

(b) A hospital is exempt from the assessment levied under this subsection if the hospital is operated under the direction and control of:

(i) The United States Veterans Administration or other agency or department of the United States government;

(ii) The University of Mississippi Medical Center;

or

(iii) A state agency or a state facility that either provides its own state match through intergovernmental transfer or certification of funds to the division.
(4) Each health care facility that is subject to the provisions of this section shall keep and preserve such suitable books and records as may be necessary to determine the amount of assessment for which it is liable under this section. The books and records shall be kept and preserved for a period of not less than five (5) years, and those books and records shall be open for examination during business hours by the division, the State Tax Commission, the Office of the Attorney General and the State Department of Health.

(5) The assessment levied under this section shall be collected by the division each month beginning on April 12, 2002.

(6) All assessments collected under this section shall be deposited in the Medical Care Fund created by Section 43-13-143.

(7) The assessment levied under this section shall be in addition to any other assessments, taxes or fees levied by law, and the assessment shall constitute a debt due the State of Mississippi from the time the assessment is due until it is paid.

(8) (a) If a health care facility that is liable for payment of the assessment levied under this section does not pay the assessment when it is due, the division shall give written notice to the health care facility by certified or registered mail demanding payment of the assessment within ten (10) days from the date of delivery of the notice. If the health care facility fails or refuses to pay the assessment after receiving the notice and demand from the division, the division shall withhold from any Medicaid reimbursement payments that are due to the health care facility the amount of the unpaid assessment and a penalty of ten percent (10%) of the amount of the assessment, plus the legal rate of interest until the assessment is paid in full. If the health care facility does not participate in the Medicaid program, the division shall turn over to the Office of the Attorney General the collection of the unpaid assessment by civil action. In any such civil action, the Office of the Attorney General shall collect the
amount of the unpaid assessment and a penalty of ten percent (10%) of the amount of the assessment, plus the legal rate of interest until the assessment is paid in full.

(b) As an additional or alternative method for collecting unpaid assessments under this section, if a health care facility fails or refuses to pay the assessment after receiving notice and demand from the division, the division may file a notice of a tax lien with the circuit clerk of the county in which the health care facility is located, for the amount of the unpaid assessment and a penalty of ten percent (10%) of the amount of the assessment, plus the legal rate of interest until the assessment is paid in full. Immediately upon receipt of notice of the tax lien for the assessment, the circuit clerk shall enter the notice of the tax lien as a judgment upon the judgment roll and show in the appropriate columns the name of the health care facility as judgment debtor, the name of the division as judgment creditor, the amount of the unpaid assessment, and the date and time of enrollment. The judgment shall be valid as against mortgagees, pledgees, entrusters, purchasers, judgment creditors and other persons from the time of filing with the clerk. The amount of the judgment shall be a debt due the State of Mississippi and remain a lien upon the tangible property of the health care facility until the judgment is satisfied. The judgment shall be the equivalent of any enrolled judgment of a court of record and shall serve as authority for the issuance of writs of execution, writs of attachment or other remedial writs.

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