

By: Representatives Ford, Dedeaux

To: Public Health and Welfare

HOUSE BILL NO. 1032

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PROGRAM OF STATE CERTIFICATION FOR
2 THERAPEUTIC RIDING INSTRUCTORS IN MISSISSIPPI, TO BE ADMINISTERED
3 BY THE MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION SERVICE; TO PROVIDE
4 THAT A THERAPEUTIC RIDING INSTRUCTOR MUST COMPLETE THE TRAINING
5 PROVIDED BY THE EXTENSION SERVICE IN ORDER TO RECEIVE
6 CERTIFICATION; TO PROVIDE THAT THE INITIAL CERTIFICATION MAY BE
7 RENEWED BY ATTENDING A CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINAR THAT IS
8 PROVIDED BY OR APPROVED BY THE EXTENSION SERVICE; AND FOR RELATED
9 PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** (1) As used in this section:

12 (a) "Extension service" means the Mississippi State
13 University Extension Service.

14 (b) "Fiscal year" means the period beginning on July 1
15 of any year and ending on June 30 of the following year.

16 (c) "Therapeutic riding" means the use of
17 equine-facilitated activities for the purpose of contributing
18 positively to the cognitive, physical, emotional and social
19 well-being of people with disabilities.

20 (2) There is established a program of state certification
21 for therapeutic riding instructors in Mississippi, which shall be
22 administered by the Mississippi State University Extension
23 Service. In order to receive certification under the state
24 program, a therapeutic riding instructor must complete the
25 training provided by the extension service, which shall address
26 standards of safety for participants, volunteers, staff,
27 equipment, facilities and horses, and standards of health care for
28 horses. The extension service shall provide, or facilitate
29 through contracts with third parties, the training necessary to
30 obtain certification.



31 (3) Initial and renewal certification under the state
32 program will be valid for one (1) fiscal year. The initial
33 certification will be valid for the fiscal year in which it is
34 obtained. In order to renew the certification for later fiscal
35 years, the instructor must attend, in each fiscal year, a
36 continuing education seminar that is provided by or approved by
37 the extension service.

38 (4) The extension service may charge reasonable fees for
39 providing training, initial certification, and continuing
40 education seminars.

41 (5) The state certification program is a program to identify
42 and recognize those therapeutic riding instructors who have
43 completed training in safety standards in therapeutic riding. The
44 state certification program is not a regulatory program, and the
45 extension service shall not have any regulatory authority over
46 therapeutic riding instructors, facilities or programs in
47 Mississippi.

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

