

By: Representatives Barnett, Bondurant

To: Public Health and Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 715
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 73-25-14 AND 73-27-12, MISSISSIPPI
2 CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE RENEWAL OF LICENSES TO PRACTICE
3 MEDICINE OR OSTEOPATHY AND PODIATRY BY ELECTRONIC MEANS; AND FOR
4 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 73-25-14, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 73-25-14. (1) The license of every person licensed to
9 practice medicine or osteopathy in the State of Mississippi shall
10 be renewed annually.

11 On or before May 1 of each year, the State Board of Medical
12 Licensure shall mail a notice of renewal of license to every
13 physician or osteopath to whom a license was issued or renewed
14 during the current licensing year. The notice shall provide
15 instructions for obtaining and submitting applications for
16 renewal. The State Board of Medical Licensure is authorized to
17 make applications for renewal available via electronic means. The
18 applicant shall obtain and complete the application and submit it
19 to the board in the manner prescribed by the board in the notice
20 before June 30 with the renewal fee of an amount established by
21 the board, but not to exceed Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00), a
22 portion of which fee shall be used to support a program to aid
23 impaired physicians and osteopaths. The payment of the annual
24 license renewal fee shall be optional with all physicians over the
25 age of seventy (70) years. Upon receipt of the application and
26 fee, the board shall verify the accuracy of the application and
27 issue to applicant a certificate of renewal for the ensuing year,
28 beginning July 1 and expiring June 30 of the succeeding calendar

29 year. That renewal shall render the holder thereof a legal
30 practitioner as stated on the renewal form.

31 (2) Any physician or osteopath practicing in Mississippi who
32 allows his or her license to lapse by failing to renew the license
33 as provided in subsection (1) may be reinstated by the board on
34 satisfactory explanation for the failure to renew, by completion
35 of a reinstatement form, and upon payment of the renewal fee for
36 the current year, and shall be assessed a fine of Twenty-five
37 Dollars (\$25.00) plus an additional fine of Five Dollars (\$5.00)
38 for each month thereafter that the license renewal remains
39 delinquent.

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

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

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

57 (6) Any physician or osteopath practicing in the State of
58 Mississippi whose license has lapsed and is deemed an illegal
59 practitioner under subsection (5) of this section may petition the
60 board for reinstatement of his or her license on a retroactive
61 basis, if the physician or osteopath was unable to meet the June

62 30 deadline due to extraordinary or other legitimate reasons, and
63 retroactive reinstatement of licensure shall be granted or may be
64 denied by the board only for good cause. Failure to advise the
65 board of change of address shall not be considered a basis of
66 reinstatement.

67 (7) None of the fees or fines provided for in this section
68 shall be applicable to the renewal of a special volunteer medical
69 license authorized under Section 73-25-18.

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

76 **SECTION 2.** Section 73-27-12, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
77 amended as follows:

78 73-27-12. (1) The license of every person licensed to
79 practice podiatry in the State of Mississippi shall be renewed
80 annually.

81 On or before May 1 of each year, the board shall mail a
82 notice of renewal of license to every podiatrist to whom a license
83 was issued or renewed during the current licensing year. The
84 notice shall provide instructions for obtaining and submitting
85 applications for renewal. The State Board of Medical Licensure is
86 authorized to make applications for renewal available via
87 electronic means. The applicant shall obtain and complete the
88 application and submit it to the board in the manner prescribed by
89 the board in the notice before June 30 with the renewal fee of an
90 amount established by the board, but not to exceed Two Hundred
91 Dollars (\$200.00), a portion of which fee shall be used to support
92 a program to aid impaired podiatrists. Upon receipt of the
93 application and fee, the board shall verify the accuracy of the
94 application and issue to applicant a certificate of renewal for

95 the ensuing year, beginning July 1 and expiring June 30 of the
96 succeeding calendar year. That renewal shall render the holder
97 thereof a legal practitioner as stated on the renewal form.

98 (2) Any podiatrist practicing in Mississippi who allows his
99 or her license to lapse by failing to renew the license as
100 provided in subsection (1) may be reinstated by the board on
101 satisfactory explanation for the failure to renew, by completion
102 of a reinstatement form, and upon payment of the renewal fee for
103 the current year, and shall be assessed a fine of Twenty-five
104 Dollars (\$25.00) plus an additional fine of Five Dollars (\$5.00)
105 for each month thereafter that the license renewal remains
106 delinquent.

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

113 (4) Any podiatrist who allows his or her license to lapse
114 shall be notified by the board within thirty (30) days of that
115 lapse.

116 (5) Any person practicing as a licensed podiatrist during
117 the time his or her license has lapsed shall be considered an
118 illegal practitioner and shall be subject to penalties set forth
119 in Section 73-27-17, provided that he or she has not submitted the
120 required reinstatement form and fee within fifteen (15) days after
121 notification by the board of the lapse.

122 (6) Any podiatrist practicing in the State of Mississippi
123 whose license has lapsed and is deemed an illegal practitioner
124 under subsection (5) of this section may petition the board for
125 reinstatement of his or her license on a retroactive basis, if the
126 podiatrist was unable to meet the June 30 deadline due to
127 extraordinary or other legitimate reasons, and retroactive

128 reinstatement of licensure shall be granted or may be denied by
129 the board only for good cause. Failure to advise the board of
130 change of address shall not be considered a basis for
131 reinstatement.

132 (7) Fees collected under the provisions of this section
133 shall be used by the board to defray expenses of administering the
134 licensure provisions of Title 73, Chapter 27, Mississippi Code of
135 1972, and to support a program to aid impaired podiatrists in an
136 amount determined by the board.

137 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
138 and after its passage.