

By: Representative Perkins (By Request)

To: Public Health and Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 1099

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 73-53-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 REVISE THE GRANDFATHER PERIOD FOR LICENSING SOCIAL WORKERS; AND  
3 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 73-53-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
6 amended as follows:

7 73-53-7. (1) Except as hereinafter provided, all  
8 individuals not exempt from licensure who are not licensed under  
9 this chapter are prohibited from performing services for  
10 compensation for which licensure is required by this chapter, and  
11 are also prohibited from holding themselves out to the public by  
12 any title or description of services set out in this chapter or by  
13 any title or description of services likely to cause public  
14 confusion with any title or description of services set out in  
15 this chapter.

16 (2) Any person not licensed under this chapter on July 1,  
17 2003, who is actively engaged in the practice of social work  
18 before July 1, 2004, as an employee of the State of Mississippi or  
19 any agency, political subdivision or municipality thereof or any  
20 community action agency or Head Start agency, and who is not  
21 eligible to be issued a license under subsection (3) of this  
22 section, shall be issued a provisional license as a licensed  
23 social worker by the board, if the person applies for such  
24 provisional license before July 1, 2004, and, at the time that the  
25 application is made, the person is so actively engaged. The  
26 license shall be issued by the board upon application therefor,  
27 the submission of proof satisfactory to the board of the

28 applicant's employment in the practice of social work as provided  
29 in this subsection, and the payment of the appropriate fee. Such  
30 license shall be valid for a maximum period of two (2) years, but  
31 not to extend past June 30, 2005, during which time the  
32 provisional licensee must pass the AASSWB social work examination  
33 at the basic level.

34 (3) Any person not licensed under this chapter on July 1,  
35 2003, who has been actively engaged in the practice of social work  
36 for not less than five (5) years before July 1, 2003, as an  
37 employee of the State of Mississippi or any agency, political  
38 subdivision or municipality thereof or any community action agency  
39 or Head Start agency, shall be issued a license as a social worker  
40 by the board, if the person applies for such license before  
41 September 1, 2004, and at the time that the application is made,  
42 the person is so actively engaged. Any person \* \* \* who has five  
43 (5) years of social work practice as an employee of any of the  
44 specified entities before July 1, 1993, who is an employee of any  
45 of the specified entities on July 1, 2000, regardless of whether  
46 the current employment position is designated as a social worker,  
47 shall be issued a license as a social worker by the board if the  
48 person applies for the license before September 1, 2004. The  
49 license shall be issued by the board upon application therefor,  
50 the submission of proof satisfactory to the board of the  
51 applicant's employment in the practice of social work as provided  
52 in this subsection, and the payment of the appropriate fee.

53 (4) From and after July 1, 2004, any person violating the  
54 provisions of this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and,  
55 upon conviction, shall be fined not more than Five Hundred Dollars  
56 (\$500.00) for his first offense, nor more than One Thousand  
57 Dollars (\$1,000.00) for each subsequent offense.

58 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
59 and after July 1, 2004.