

By: Representative Holland

To: Public Health and Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 887

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 73-26-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 PROVIDE THAT APPLICANTS FOR A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LICENSE WHO MEET
3 ALL LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS EXCEPT FOR HAVING A MASTER'S DEGREE MAY
4 BE GRANTED A TEMPORARY LICENSE IF THEY CAN SHOW PROOF OF
5 ENROLLMENT IN A MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM THAT WILL, WHEN COMPLETED,
6 MEET THE MASTER'S DEGREE REQUIREMENT; TO PROVIDE THAT THE
7 TEMPORARY LICENSE SHALL BE VALID FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE YEAR, AND
8 MAY NOT BE RENEWED; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** Section 73-26-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
11 amended as follows:

12 73-26-3. (1) The State Board of Medical Licensure shall
13 license and regulate the practice of physician assistants in
14 accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

15 (2) All physician assistants who are employed as physician
16 assistants by a Department of Veterans Affairs health care
17 facility, a branch of the United States military or the Federal
18 Bureau of Prisons, and who are practicing as physician assistants
19 in a federal facility in Mississippi on July 1, 2000, and those
20 physician assistants who trained in a Mississippi physician
21 assistant program and have been continuously practicing as a
22 physician assistant in Mississippi since 1976, shall be eligible
23 for licensure if they submit an application for licensure to the
24 board by December 31, 2000. Physician assistants licensed under
25 this subsection will be eligible for license renewal so long as
26 they meet standard renewal requirements.

27 (3) Before December 31, 2004, applicants for physician
28 assistant licensure, except those licensed under subsection (2) of
29 this section, must be graduates of physician assistant educational
30 programs accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied

31 Health Educational Programs or its predecessor or successor
32 agency, have passed the certification examination administered by
33 the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants
34 (NCCPA), have current NCCPA certification, and possess a minimum
35 of a baccalaureate degree. Physician assistants meeting these
36 licensure requirements will be eligible for license renewal so
37 long as they meet standard renewal requirements.

38 (4) On or after December 31, 2004, applicants for physician
39 assistant licensure must meet all of the requirements in
40 subsection (3) of this section and, in addition, must have
41 obtained a minimum of a master's degree in a health-related or
42 science field.

43 (5) Applicants for licensure who meet all licensure
44 requirements except for the master's degree may be granted a
45 temporary license by the board if they can show proof of
46 enrollment in a master's degree program that will, when completed,
47 meet the master's degree requirement. The temporary license shall
48 be valid for not more than one (1) year, and may not be renewed.
49 This subsection shall stand repealed on July 1, 2010.

50 (6) For new graduate physician assistants and all physician
51 assistants receiving initial licenses in the state, except those
52 licensed under subsection (2) of this section, supervision shall
53 require the on-site presence of a supervising physician for one
54 hundred twenty (120) days.

55 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
56 and after its passage.