

By: Senator(s) Nunnelee, Butler, Dawkins, Dearing, Frazier, Gollott, Harden, Jackson (32nd), Kirby, Posey

To: Public Health and Welfare; Appropriations

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 2127

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A JOINT STUDY COMMITTEE ON THE CRITICAL
2 NEEDS OF NURSING FACULTY AT THE MISSISSIPPI INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
3 LEARNING AND THE COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES; TO REQUIRE A
4 REPORT TO THE 2007 REGULAR SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE; AND FOR
5 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created a Joint Study Committee on
8 the Critical Needs of Nursing Faculty at the Mississippi
9 Institutions of Higher Learning and the Community and Junior
10 Colleges. The joint committee shall study alternative programs to
11 produce more nursing faculty at the schools of nursing in
12 Mississippi in order to fill the health care needs of this state.
13 The Joint committee shall, at a minimum, study and report to the
14 2007 Regular Session of the Legislature on the following:

- 15 (a) Salary supplements to nurse faculty;
- 16 (b) Employer-assisted housing for nurse faculty
17 programs, including home loans to nurse educators and relocation
18 expenses to nurses who agree to become nursing faculty;
- 19 (c) Annual program supplements for each RN program in
20 the state to attract students;
- 21 (d) Authorize advanced degree students to pursue
22 masters and doctoral degrees in nursing with payback if they
23 render service as nursing faculty;
- 24 (e) Earmark IHL scholarship/loan program for nursing
25 faculty for doctoral students.

26 The Joint Committee shall make a report of its findings and
27 recommendations to the Legislature by December 1, 2006, including
28 any recommended legislation.

29 (2) The joint committee shall be composed of the following
30 ten (10) members:

31 (a) The Chairmen of the Senate and House Appropriation
32 Committees;

33 (b) The Chairmen of the Senate and House Public Health
34 and Welfare (Human Services) Committees;

35 (c) Three (3) Senators to be appointed by the
36 Lieutenant Governor, at least one (1) of which shall be a member
37 of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee; and

38 (d) Three (3) representatives to be appointed by the
39 Speaker of the House, at least one (1) of which shall be a member
40 of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee.

41 (3) Appointments shall be made within thirty (30) days after
42 the effective date of this act. The joint committee shall hold
43 its first meeting before August 1, 2006. The Chairmen of the
44 Senate and House Public Health and Welfare (Human Services)
45 Committees shall serve as co-chairmen of the joint committee.

46 (4) A majority of the members of the joint committee shall
47 constitute a quorum. In the adoption of rules, resolutions and
48 reports, an affirmative vote of a majority of the joint committee
49 shall be required. All members shall be notified in writing of
50 all meetings, such notices to be mailed at least five (5) days
51 prior to the date on which a meeting is to be held.

52 (5) Members of the joint committee shall receive the
53 customary per diem compensation, expense reimbursement and mileage
54 for attending legislative committee meetings when the Legislature
55 is not in session.

56 (6) The joint committee is authorized to accept funds from
57 any source, public or private, to be expended in implementing its
58 duties under this section.

59 (7) To effectuate the purposes of this section, any
60 department, division, board, bureau, commission or agency of the
61 state or any political subdivision thereof, shall, at the request

62 of the co-chairmen of the joint committee, provide such
63 facilities, assistance and data as will enable the joint committee
64 to properly carry out its duties.

65 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
66 and after July 1, 2006.