

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.