

By: Senator(s) Nunnelee

To: Public Health and  
Welfare

## SENATE BILL NO. 2571

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 73-26-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 AUTHORIZE THE STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE TO ISSUE A LIMITED  
3 TEMPORARY LICENSE FOR APPLICANTS ENROLLED IN THE REQUIRED MASTER'S  
4 DEGREE PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

8 73-26-3. (1) The State Board of Medical Licensure shall  
9 license and regulate the practice of physician assistants in  
10 accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

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

23 (3) Before December 31, 2004, applicants for physician  
24 assistant licensure, except those licensed under subsection (2) of  
25 this section, must be graduates of physician assistant educational  
26 programs accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied  
27 Health Educational Programs or its predecessor or successor  
28 agency, have passed the certification examination administered by

29 the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants  
30 (NCCPA), have current NCCPA certification, and possess a minimum  
31 of a baccalaureate degree. Physician assistants meeting these  
32 licensure requirements will be eligible for license renewal so  
33 long as they meet standard renewal requirements.

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

39 (5) Applicants for licensure who meet all licensure  
40 requirements except for the master's degree may be granted a  
41 temporary license by the board so long as they can show proof of  
42 enrollment in a master's program that will, when completed, meet  
43 the master's degree requirement. The temporary license will be  
44 valid for no longer than one (1) year, and may not be renewed.  
45 This subsection shall take effect and be in force from and after  
46 its passage. This subsection shall stand repealed on July 1,  
47 2010.

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

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