

Senate Amendments to House Bill No. 1465

TO THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE:

THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE SENATE HAS ADOPTED THE AMENDMENTS SET OUT BELOW:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

33 SECTION 1. There is established the Mississippi Rural
34 Physicians Scholarship Program for the purpose of identifying and
35 recruiting qualified university and college students from rural
36 areas of the state for medical or osteopathic school
37 matriculation. The program shall consist of three (3) distinct
38 phases through which participants will progress, including:

- 39 (a) Undergraduate premedical education;
40 (b) Medical or osteopathic school and residency; and
41 (c) Post-residency entry into medical practice in a
42 rural or underserved area of the State of Mississippi.

43 SECTION 2. (1) The Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship
44 Program shall be administered by a commission to be known as the
45 "Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Commission." The
46 commission shall be directed by a board composed of the following
47 members:

48 (a) Two (2) generalist physicians appointed by and from
49 the membership of the Mississippi State Medical Association, the
50 term of which shall be three (3) years and may be reappointed for
51 one (1) additional term;

52 (b) One (1) generalist physician appointed by and from
53 the membership of each of the following organizations, the term of
54 which shall be three (3) years and may be reappointed for one (1)
55 additional term:

- 56 (i) Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians;
57 (ii) Mississippi Chapter, American College of
58 Physicians;

59 (iii) Mississippi Chapter, American Academy of
60 Pediatrics;

61 (iv) Mississippi Chapter, American College of
62 OB-GYN;

63 (v) Mississippi Medical and Surgical Association;

64 (vi) Mississippi Osteopathic Association;

65 (c) Two (2) designees of the Dean of the University of
66 Mississippi School of Medicine whose terms are at the discretion
67 of the dean, at least one (1) of whom is a member of the
68 University of Mississippi School of Medicine Admissions Committee;

69 (d) Two (2) medical students, one (1) of whom shall be
70 selected yearly through a process developed by the dean of the
71 School of Medicine in consultation with the chairs of the
72 departments of family medicine, internal medicine, OB-GYN, and
73 pediatrics, and one (1) of whom shall be nominated for a one-year
74 term by the Mississippi Chapter of the Student National Medical
75 Association and approved by the Dean of the University of
76 Mississippi School of Medicine;

77 (e) A member of the Board of Trustees of State
78 Institutions of Higher Learning; and

79 (f) The Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at
80 the University of Mississippi School of Medicine.

81 (2) The premedical advisors from the accredited four-year
82 colleges and universities in the state and the directors or
83 designees of the primary care generalist training programs in the
84 State of Mississippi shall comprise an advisory committee to the
85 board to assist the board in its administration of the Mississippi
86 Rural Physicians Scholarship Program.

87 (3) Vacancies on the board must be filled in a manner
88 consistent with the original appointments.

89 (4) All appointments to the board must be made no later than
90 September 1, 2007. After the members are appointed, the Chair of
91 the Department of Family Medicine shall set a date for the
92 organizational meeting that is mutually acceptable to the majority
93 of the board members. The organizational meeting shall be for the

94 purposes of organizing the board and establishing rules for
95 transacting its business. A majority of the members of the board
96 shall constitute a quorum at all board meetings. An affirmative
97 vote of a majority of the members present and voting shall be
98 required in the adoption of rules, reports and in any other
99 actions taken by the board. At the organizational meeting, the
100 board shall elect a chair and vice chair from the members
101 appointed according to paragraphs (a) through (d) of subsection
102 (1). The chair shall serve for a term of two (2) years, upon the
103 expiration of which the vice chair shall assume the office of
104 chair.

105 (5) After the organizational meeting, the board shall hold
106 no less than two (2) meetings annually.

107 (6) The board may form an executive committee for the
108 purpose of transacting business that must be conducted before the
109 next regularly scheduled meeting of the board. All actions taken
110 by the executive committee must be ratified by the board at its
111 next regularly scheduled meeting.

112 (7) Members of the board shall serve without compensation
113 but may be reimbursed, subject to the availability of funding, for
114 mileage and actual and necessary expenses incurred in attending
115 meetings of the board.

116 (8) The commission shall be at the University of Mississippi
117 Medical Center. Funding any required staff support and operation
118 must be from monies appropriated for the Mississippi Rural
119 Physicians Scholarship Program and not for the University of
120 Mississippi Medical Center.

121 **SECTION 3.** The Board of the Mississippi Rural Physicians
122 Scholarship Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

123 (a) Developing the administrative policy for the
124 commission and the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship
125 Program;

126 (b) Developing and implementing strategies and
127 activities for the identification and recruitment of students and
128 for marketing the program and for the implementation of the

129 program. In developing these strategies, the board shall seek the
130 input of various organizations and entities, including the
131 Mississippi State Medical Association, the Mississippi Academy of
132 Family Physicians, the Mississippi Chapters of the American
133 College of Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the
134 American College of OB-GYN, the Mississippi Medical and Surgical
135 Association and the Mississippi Osteopathic Medicine Association;

136 (c) Establishing a budget to support the activities of
137 the program and periodically reviewing and if appropriate,
138 revising, the scholarship and other stipends offered through the
139 program;

140 (d) Hiring an executive director and support staff
141 necessary for the commission's work;

142 (e) Reviewing participants progress in the program and
143 mentoring students and physicians participating in the program;

144 (f) Developing and participating in programs that
145 provide initial practice support in collaboration with other
146 interested professional organizations. All funding for practice
147 support must be separate from University of Mississippi Medical
148 Center funding and not under University of Mississippi Medical
149 Center control.

150 **SECTION 4.** (1) The board shall develop and implement
151 policies and procedures designed to recruit, identify and enroll
152 undergraduate students who demonstrate necessary interest,
153 commitment, aptitude and academic achievement to pursue careers as
154 family physicians or other generalist physicians in rural or
155 medically underserved areas of Mississippi, and to develop and
156 implement the programs designed to foster successful entry of
157 participants into medical school, completion of medical school,
158 enrollment into and completion of family medicine or other
159 generalist residency, and establishment and maintenance of a
160 career in family medicine or other generalist specialty in a rural
161 or underserved area of Mississippi.

162 (2) The board shall have the authority through use of
163 generally applicable definitions, to designate an area of the
164 state as underserved or rural.

165 (3) The board, in conjunction with the University of
166 Mississippi Medical Center, shall have the authority to provide
167 students selected for scholarship funding with faculty mentors and
168 other programs designed to enhance the students' likelihood of
169 admission to the medical school. The board and the University of
170 Mississippi Medical Center will develop course work that will
171 provide scholarship students with the skills necessary for
172 sustained and successful medical practice in rural Mississippi.

173 (4) Each applicant for admission to the program must submit
174 an application to the commission that conforms to requirements
175 established by the board.

176 (5) In selecting participants for the program, the board may
177 only accept an applicant if his or her academic record and other
178 characteristics, if given consideration by the University of
179 Mississippi School of Medicine Admissions Committee, would be
180 considered credible and competitive.

181 (6) An applicant for the program may be admitted only upon a
182 majority vote of the members of the board.

183 (7) Up to fifteen (15) students will be admitted to the
184 Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program each year,
185 beginning with the 2008-2009 academic year.

186 **SECTION 5.** (1) Participants must adhere to the policies and
187 practices as stipulated by the board to continue in the program.

188 (2) Students in the program may receive tuition or other
189 financial support that may be provided by the commission. If a
190 student in the program is admitted to and completes medical or
191 osteopathic school, any tuition or other educational and living
192 support provided to the student by the commission will be
193 forgiven. However, if the student is not successful in being
194 accepted into medical or osteopathic school within three (3) years
195 of entry into the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship
196 Program, or if the student otherwise breaches his or her agreement

197 with the commission, all financial assistance provided to the
198 student must be repaid according to policies adopted by the board.

199 **SECTION 6.** (1) Students in the program may apply to any
200 medical or osteopathic school that is accredited by the Liaison
201 Committee on Medical Education (LCME) or the American Osteopathic
202 Association (AOA).

203 (2) Students in the program seeking admission to the
204 University of Mississippi School of Medicine shall be eligible for
205 a special admissions process pursuant to criteria established by
206 the School of Medicine Admissions Committee which will include
207 special consideration of the attributes of participation in the
208 program.

209 (3) In carrying out the admissions process developed for the
210 Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program participants
211 under this section, the goal is for the program to work with the
212 School of Medicine to enhance the capability of participants to
213 successfully enter and complete medical school, train in family
214 medicine or other generalist primary care specialty and enter
215 practice in rural or underserved areas in Mississippi. To the
216 extent feasible, the early admissions process should be completed
217 before November 1 of the year preceding a student's admission to
218 medical school.

219 **SECTION 7.** (1) Subject to the availability of funding,
220 students in the program who successfully matriculate to medical or
221 osteopathic school are eligible for ongoing financial support in
222 accordance with policies and requirements of the commission and in
223 accordance with the applicable laws and regulations. The number
224 of students to be supported at the University of Mississippi
225 School of Medicine and at other schools will be established by
226 policy prescribed by the board.

227 (2) Subject to the availability of funding, students
228 enrolled at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine may
229 receive tuition support, funding to assist with the cost of books
230 and a living stipend, as prescribed by policy of the board and in
231 accordance with applicable regulations. Preferences for ongoing

232 funding must be given to those students admitted to the University
233 of Mississippi School of Medicine.

234 (3) For each year that a student in medical or osteopathic
235 school receives financial assistance, the student is obligated for
236 one (1) year of practice as a primary care physician in a rural or
237 underserved area in Mississippi. Breach of the agreement at any
238 stage of training shall invoke the repayment of all financial
239 assistance provided to the student through the Mississippi Rural
240 Physicians Scholarship Program, including assistance provided
241 during undergraduate school, as well as in medical or osteopathic
242 school, along with other penalties that may be prescribed in
243 policy by the board.

244 **SECTION 8.** Medical and osteopathic students in the program
245 must enter family medicine or other generalist residency programs
246 according to their choice of specialty. Depending upon the
247 availability of funds, students who successfully enter residency
248 programs which have been approved by the board may receive further
249 financial support from the Mississippi Rural Physicians
250 Scholarship Program subject to applicable rules and policies of
251 the commission. All funding for financial support from the
252 commission to participants during their residency must be separate
253 from University of Mississippi Medical Center funding and not
254 under University of Mississippi Medical Center control and be
255 disbursed in accordance with applicable regulations.

256 **SECTION 9.** (1) Upon completion of residency, a participant
257 in the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program must
258 proceed to enter the practice of medicine in a rural or
259 underserved area in Mississippi, as defined by the board and
260 consistent with generally acceptable designations. If an area
261 experiences significant changes in its medical or general
262 community which are not reflected by health professional shortage
263 area (HPSA) or medically underserved area (MUA) rural designation,
264 the board may receive testimony and, in its discretion, may
265 qualify the area as an underserved or rural area to allow the
266 program participant to fulfill his or her practice obligation.

267 (2) Upon entering the practice of medicine, a participant in
268 the program must serve in a health professional shortage area
269 (HPSA), medically underserved area (MUA), or rural area otherwise
270 approved for practice under subsection (1) of this section for a
271 number of years which corresponds to the number of years, not to
272 exceed five (5), for which the participant received funding
273 through the program. A participant who completes residency
274 outside the State of Mississippi who fails to enter the practice
275 of medicine as required under this section shall be deemed in
276 breach of contract and shall be liable for the immediate repayment
277 of all financial assistance provided to the participant through
278 the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program, including
279 assistance provided during undergraduate school, as well as in
280 medical or osteopathic school, along with other penalties that may
281 be prescribed in policy by the board. Any participant who fails
282 to complete the period of practice for which he or she is
283 obligated to provide services in a health professional shortage
284 area (HPSA) or a medically underserved area (MUA) in exchange for
285 financial assistance received through the Mississippi Rural
286 Physicians Scholarship Program shall be liable for the repayment
287 of all financial assistance provided to the participant through
288 the program, along with other penalties that may be prescribed by
289 the board, an amount which shall be reduced on a pro rata basis
290 for actual years of practice by the physician in the area
291 designated by the board.

292 **SECTION 10.** The Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship
293 Commission, acting through the board, shall make every effort to
294 establish an initial practice entry support system for
295 participants in the program.

296 **SECTION 11.** This act may not be construed as granting the
297 Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Commission or its
298 governing board any governing or administrative authority over any
299 program administered by any college, university, medical school or
300 residency program in this state or any other program established

301 by state law, including the Medical Education Scholarship and Loan
302 Repayment Program established under Section 37-143-6.

303 **SECTION 12.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
304 and after July 1, 2007.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE MISSISSIPPI RURAL PHYSICIANS
2 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND COMMISSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECRUITING
3 AND TRAINING QUALIFIED PERSONS TO PRACTICE MEDICINE IN RURAL AREAS
4 OF THE STATE; TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI RURAL PHYSICIANS
5 SCHOLARSHIP COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM; TO ESTABLISH A
6 BOARD FOR THE MISSISSIPPI RURAL PHYSICIANS SCHOLARSHIP COMMISSION
7 AND TO PRESCRIBE ITS POWERS AND DUTIES; TO PROVIDE THAT THE
8 COMMISSION SHALL BE HOUSED IN THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT THE
9 UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER; TO PRESCRIBE THE
10 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS SEEKING ENTRY
11 INTO THE PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PROCESS IN
12 CONJUNCTION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
13 WHICH WOULD FACILITATE EARLY ADMISSION OF QUALIFIED PROGRAM
14 PARTICIPANTS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE;
15 TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO
16 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS IN UNDERGRADUATE AND MEDICAL SCHOOL AND
17 RESIDENCY; TO REQUIRE MEDICAL SCHOOL PARTICIPANTS TO ENTER AND
18 COMPLETE FAMILY MEDICINE OR OTHER GENERALIST RESIDENCY PROGRAMS;
19 TO REQUIRE PARTICIPANTS TO PRACTICE MEDICINE AS FAMILY PHYSICIANS
20 OR OTHER GENERALIST PHYSICIANS IN A RURAL OR HEALTH PROFESSIONAL
21 SHORTAGE AREA OR MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREA OF THE STATE FOR THE
22 NUMBER OF YEARS, NOT TO EXCEED FIVE, WHICH CORRESPONDS TO THE
23 NUMBER OF YEARS THAT THE PARTICIPANT RECEIVED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
24 THROUGH THE PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE PARTICIPANTS WHO FAIL TO COMPLETE
25 THEIR FAMILY MEDICINE OR GENERALIST RESIDENCY AND PRACTICE
26 OBLIGATIONS TO REPAY, ON A PRO RATA BASIS, ANY FINANCIAL
27 ASSISTANCE RECEIVED THROUGH THE PROGRAM PLUS PENALTIES; TO REQUIRE
28 THE COMMISSION TO ENDEAVOR TO ESTABLISH AN INITIAL PRACTICE ENTRY
29 SUPPORT SYSTEM; TO PROVIDE THAT THE COMMISSION AND ITS BOARD HAVE
30 NO AUTHORITY OVER ANY PROGRAMS OTHER THAN THE MISSISSIPPI RURAL
31 PHYSICIANS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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John O. Gilbert
Secretary of the Senate