

By: Representative Warren

To: Public Health and Human
Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 210

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 73-26-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 EXTEND THE REPEALER ON THE AUTHORITY TO GRANT TEMPORARY LICENSES
3 TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

7 73-26-3. (1) The State Board of Medical Licensure shall
8 license and regulate the practice of physician assistants in
9 accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

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

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



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

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

(5) Applicants for licensure who meet all licensure requirements except for the master's degree may be granted a temporary license by the board so long as they can show proof of enrollment in a master's program that will, when completed, meet the master's degree requirement. The temporary license will be valid for no longer than one (1) year, and may not be renewed. * * * This subsection shall stand repealed on July 1, 2013.

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

(7) To qualify for a Mississippi physician assistant license, an applicant must have successfully been cleared for licensure through an investigation that shall consist of a determination as to good moral character and verification that the prospective licensee is not guilty of or in violation of any statutory ground for denial of licensure. To assist the board in conducting its licensure investigation, all applicants shall undergo a fingerprint-based criminal history records check of the Mississippi central criminal database and the Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal history database. Each applicant shall



61 submit a full set of the applicant's fingerprints in a form and
62 manner prescribed by the board, which shall be forwarded to the
63 Mississippi Department of Public Safety (department) and the
64 Federal Bureau of Investigation Identification Division for this
65 purpose.

66 Any and all state or national criminal history records
67 information obtained by the board that is not already a matter of
68 public record shall be deemed nonpublic and confidential
69 information restricted to the exclusive use of the board, its
70 members, officers, investigators, agents and attorneys in
71 evaluating the applicant's eligibility or disqualification for
72 licensure, and shall be exempt from the Mississippi Public Records
73 Act of 1983. Except when introduced into evidence in a hearing
74 before the board to determine licensure, no such information or
75 records related thereto shall, except with the written consent of
76 the applicant or by order of a court of competent jurisdiction, be
77 released or otherwise disclosed by the board to any other person
78 or agency.

79 The board shall provide to the department the fingerprints of
80 the applicant, any additional information that may be required by
81 the department, and a form signed by the applicant consenting to
82 the check of the criminal records and to the use of the
83 fingerprints and other identifying information required by the
84 state or national repositories.

85 The board shall charge and collect from the applicant, in
86 addition to all other applicable fees and costs, such amount as
87 may be incurred by the board in requesting and obtaining state and
88 national criminal history records information on the applicant.

89 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
90 and after July 1, 2010.

