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By: Representatives Scott, Clark, Wooten

To: Appropriations; Universities and Colleges

HOUSE BILL NO. 253

AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT ANY NURSING SCHOOL OR DEGREE PROGRAM AT A STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING OR A PUBLIC COMMUNITY OR 3 JUNIOR COLLEGE IN MISSISSIPPI THAT HAS AN ENROLLMENT OF 100% DURING THE 2011-2012 ACADEMIC YEAR IS ELIGIBLE FOR STATE FUNDING 4 TO HIRE UP TO FOUR ADDITIONAL FACULTY MEMBERS FOR THE NURSING 5 6 SCHOOL OR PROGRAM BEGINNING WITH THE 2012-2013 ACADEMIC YEAR; TO 7 PROVIDE THAT IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THIS FUNDING, A NURSING SCHOOL OR PROGRAM MUST INCREASE ITS ENROLLMENT PROPORTIONATELY FOR EACH 8 9 ADDITIONAL FACULTY MEMBER HIRED WITH THE FUNDING; TO AMEND SECTIONS 37-4-3, 37-115-51, 37-129-1 AND 73-15-25, MISSISSIPPI 10 CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING PROVISIONS; TO AMEND 11 SECTION 71-5-353, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO EXPAND THE PURPOSES 12 FOR WHICH MONIES IN THE MISSISSIPPI WORKFORCE ENHANCEMENT TRAINING 13 FUND MAY BE EXPENDED TO INCLUDE FUNDING TO NURSING SCHOOLS AND 14 DEGREE PROGRAMS AT STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING AND AT 15 PUBLIC COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES TO HIRE ADDITIONAL FACULTY 16 17 MEMBERS FOR THE NURSING SCHOOL OR PROGRAM AS PROVIDED IN THIS ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES. 18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI: 19 20 **SECTION_1.** (1) Any nursing school or degree program at a 21 state institution of higher learning or a public community or 22 junior college in Mississippi that has an enrollment of one hundred percent (100%) during the 2011-2012 academic year is 23 24 eligible for funding from the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, the Board for Community and 25 Junior Colleges or the State Department of Education, as the case 26 27 may be, to hire up to four (4) additional faculty members for the 28 nursing school or program beginning with the 2012-2013 academic 29 year. In order to receive the funding under this section, a 30 nursing school or program must increase the enrollment at the 31 school or program proportionately for each additional faculty

The Legislature shall appropriate or otherwise make 34 available to the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher H. B. No. 253 G3/5 12/HR40/R449 PAGE 1 (CAA\BD)

member hired with this funding.

- 35 Learning, the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges and
- 36 the State Department of Education the funds that are necessary to
- 37 implement the provisions of subsection (1) of this section.
- 38 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-4-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 39 amended as follows:
- 40 37-4-3. (1) * * * There shall be a State Board for
- 41 Community and Junior Colleges which shall receive and distribute
- 42 funds appropriated by the Legislature for the use of the public
- 43 community and junior colleges and funds from federal and other
- 44 sources that are transmitted through the state governmental
- 45 organization for use by those colleges. This board shall provide
- 46 general coordination of the public community and junior colleges,
- 47 assemble reports and such other duties as may be prescribed by
- 48 law.
- 49 (2) The board shall consist of ten (10) members of which
- 50 none shall be an elected official and none shall be engaged in the
- 51 educational profession. The Governor shall appoint two (2)
- 52 members from the First Mississippi Congressional District, one (1)
- 53 who shall serve an initial term of two (2) years and one (1) who
- 54 shall serve an initial term of five (5) years; two (2) members
- 55 from the Second Mississippi Congressional District, one (1) who
- 56 shall serve an initial term of five (5) years and one (1) who
- 57 shall serve an initial term of three (3) years; and two (2)
- 58 members from the Third Mississippi Congressional District, one (1)
- 59 who shall serve an initial term of four (4) years and one (1) who
- 60 shall serve an initial term of two (2) years; two (2) members from
- 61 the Fourth Mississippi Congressional District, one (1) who shall
- 62 serve an initial term of three (3) years and one (1) who shall
- 63 serve an initial term of four (4) years; and two (2) members from
- 64 the Fifth Mississippi Congressional District, one (1) who shall
- 65 serve an initial term of five (5) years and one (1) who shall
- 66 serve an initial term of two (2) years. All subsequent
- 67 appointments shall be for a term of six (6) years and continue

- 68 until their successors are appointed and qualify. An appointment
- 69 to fill a vacancy that arises for reasons other than by expiration
- 70 of a term of office shall be for the unexpired term only. No two
- 71 (2) appointees shall reside in the same junior college district.
- 72 All members shall be appointed with the advice and consent of the
- 73 Senate.
- 74 (3) There shall be a chairman and vice chairman of the
- 75 board, elected by and from the membership of the board; and the
- 76 chairman shall be the presiding officer of the board. The board
- 77 shall adopt rules and regulations governing times and places for
- 78 meetings and governing the manner of conducting its business.
- 79 (4) The members of the board shall receive no annual salary,
- 80 but shall receive per diem compensation as authorized by Section
- 81 25-3-69 for each day devoted to the discharge of official board
- 82 duties and shall be entitled to reimbursement for all actual and
- 83 necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties,
- 84 including mileage as authorized by Section 25-3-41.
- 85 (5) The board shall name a director for the state system of
- 86 public junior and community colleges, who shall serve at the
- 87 pleasure of the board. $\underline{\text{The}}$ director shall be the chief executive
- 88 officer of the board, give direction to the board staff, carry out
- 89 the policies set forth by the board, and work with the presidents
- 90 of the several community and junior colleges to assist them in
- 91 carrying out the mandates of the several boards of trustees and in
- 92 functioning within the state system and policies established by
- 93 the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges. The State
- 94 Board for Community and Junior Colleges shall set the salary of
- 95 the Director of the State System of Community and Junior Colleges.
- 96 The Legislature shall provide adequate funds for the State Board
- 97 for Community and Junior Colleges, its activities and its staff.
- 98 (6) The powers and duties of the State Board for Community
- 99 and Junior Colleges shall be:

- 100 (a) To authorize disbursements of state appropriated
 101 funds to community and junior colleges through orders in the
 102 minutes of the board.
- 103 (b) To make studies of the needs of the state as they
 104 relate to the mission of the community and junior colleges.
- 105 (c) To approve new, changes to and deletions of vocational and technical programs to the various colleges.
- 107 (d) To require community and junior colleges to supply
 108 such information as the board may request and compile, publish and
 109 make available such reports based thereon as the board may deem
 110 advisable.
- (e) To approve proposed new attendance centers (campus locations) as the local boards of trustees should determine to be in the best interest of the district. However, * * * no new community/junior college branch campus shall be approved without an authorizing act of the Legislature.
- (f) To serve as the state approving agency for federal funds for proposed contracts to borrow money for the purpose of acquiring land, erecting, repairing, etc. dormitories, dwellings or apartments for students and/or faculty, the loans to be paid from revenue produced by those facilities as requested by local boards of trustees.
- 122 (g) To approve applications from community and junior 123 colleges for state funds for vocational-technical education 124 facilities.
- 125 (h) To approve any university branch campus offering
 126 lower undergraduate level courses for credit.
- 127 (i) To appoint members to the Post-Secondary
 128 Educational Assistance Board.
- 129 (j) To appoint members to the Authority for Educational 130 Television.
- (k) To contract with other boards, commissions,
 governmental entities, foundations, corporations or individuals

- 133 for programs, services, grants and awards when such are needed for
- 134 the operation and development of the state public community and
- 135 junior college system.
- 136 (1) To fix standards for community and junior colleges
- 137 to qualify for appropriations, and qualifications for community
- 138 and junior college teachers.
- 139 (m) To have sign-off approval on the State Plan for
- 140 Vocational Education that is developed in cooperation with
- 141 appropriate units of the State Department of Education.
- (n) To approve or disapprove of any proposed inclusion
- 143 within municipal corporate limits of state-owned buildings and
- 144 grounds of any community college or junior college and to approve
- 145 or disapprove of land use development, zoning requirements,
- 146 building codes and delivery of governmental services applicable to
- 147 state-owned buildings and grounds of any community college or
- 148 junior college. Any agreement by a local board of trustees of a
- 149 community college or junior college to annexation of state-owned
- 150 property or other conditions described in this paragraph shall be
- 151 void unless approved by the board and by the board of supervisors
- 152 of the county in which the state-owned property is located.
- 153 (o) Under the provisions of Section 1 of this act,
- 154 provide funding to nursing schools and degree programs at public
- community and junior colleges to hire additional faculty members
- 156 for the nursing school or program, and require any nursing school
- 157 or program that receives the funding to increase the enrollment at
- 158 the school or program proportionately for each additional faculty
- 159 member hired with the funding.
- **SECTION 3.** Section 37-115-51, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 161 amended as follows:
- 162 37-115-51. The Legislature \star \star finds that there is great
- 163 need of additional and better trained nurses in Mississippi and
- 164 the purpose of this section is to meet that need to the

165 extent * * * provided in this section.

The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher

Learning shall establish a school of nursing at the University of

Mississippi under the jurisdiction of the Dean of the School of

Medicine or such other authority as the board of trustees may

determine, and other regularly constituted administrative

authorities of the university.

The board of trustees shall provide for the school, such

The board of trustees shall provide for the school, such buildings and equipment, and such teaching staff and other personnel as may be deemed appropriate for the establishment and operation of the school of nursing and for the performance of the other functions * * * provided for in this section, all of which shall, however, be done within the appropriations made for those purposes.

The school of nursing shall, under the direction and supervision of the Dean of the School of Medicine and the other regularly constituted administrative authorities of the university and of the board of trustees and under curricula to be prescribed by the board, and beginning each of its functions at such time as may be determined by the board, carry on a teaching course, looking to the conferring of bachelor's or master's degrees in nursing.

The school of nursing shall be under the same direction, supervision, control and conditions as set forth in the fourth paragraph of this section, have authority, in its discretion, to arrange and contract with hospitals, hospital schools of nursing or other similar institutions, for students in the school of nursing to take clinical training and practice in those institutions. It also may contract with hospitals, hospital schools of nursing or other similar institutions with respect to providing to any such institution instructors or instruction services from the university school of nursing upon full- or part-time basis and upon such basis of compensation or

reimbursement of costs as may be deemed reasonable and proper in view of the public interests involved.

200 Under the same supervision, direction, control and conditions
201 as are set forth in the fourth paragraph of this section, the
202 school of nursing shall also administer such scholarship programs
203 in nursing education and such activities with respect to
204 recruitment of nursing students and counseling work with such
205 students and prospective students as may be provided for by the
206 Legislature from time to time.

207 <u>The school of nursing at the University of Mississippi is</u>
208 <u>eligible for funding to hire additional faculty members under the</u>
209 provisions of Section 1 of this act.

210 **SECTION 4.** Section 37-129-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 211 amended as follows:

212 37-129-1. In addition to all other powers and duties now 213 vested by law in the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of 214 Higher Learning of the State of Mississippi, the board shall:

(a) Establish by rules and regulations and promulgate uniform standards for accreditation of schools of nursing in the State of Mississippi (i) insofar as concerns the eligibility of graduates of those schools to take the examination prescribed by law to become registered nurses authorized to practice the profession of nursing as registered nurses in Mississippi, and (ii) insofar as concerns student nurses attending those schools being eligible to participate in any student nurse scholarship program or other program of assistance now existing or hereafter established by legislative enactment;

(b) Issue to <u>those</u> schools of nursing upon an annual basis certificates of accreditation as may be proper under <u>those</u> standards;

(c) Administer any scholarship program or other program
of assistance heretofore or hereafter established by legislative

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- enactment for the benefit of students attending accredited schools of nursing in this state;
- 232 (d) Administer any other funds available or $\underline{\text{that}}$ may be
- 233 made available for the promotion of nursing education in the
- 234 state, with the exception of nursing faculty supplement funds to
- 235 the public community and junior colleges, which funds shall be
- 236 appropriated to and administered by the $\underline{\text{State Board for Community}}$
- 237 and Junior Colleges * * *;
- (e) Adopt rules and regulations to provide that a nurse
- 239 in training may, during the two-year period in an approved
- 240 hospital, be allowed to transfer at any time with full credit
- 241 after six (6) months in training, to any other hospital of her
- 242 choice at which there is a vacancy; suitable provision shall be
- 243 made to protect him or her against coercion or intimidation
- 244 concerning such a contemplated transfer;
- 245 (f) Under the provisions of Section 1 of this act,
- 246 provide funding to nursing schools and degree programs at state
- 247 institutions of higher learning to hire additional faculty members
- 248 for the nursing school or program, and require any nursing school
- 249 or program that receives the funding to increase the enrollment at
- 250 the school or program proportionately for each additional faculty
- 251 member hired with the funding.
- In addition to other powers now vested by law in the Board of
- 253 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, the board may
- 254 establish and maintain a nurse-midwifery education program that
- 255 meets the accreditation standards of the American College of
- 256 Nurse-Midwives at a state institution of higher learning under the
- 257 jurisdiction of the board of trustees.
- In order to implement paragraph (d) above, the Board of
- 259 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning shall arrange
- 260 and contract with hospitals, senior colleges and hospital schools
- 261 of nursing for the financial support of programs of nursing
- 262 education. The * * * board may adopt any terms for contracts,

and <u>any</u> rules and regulations for reimbursing contracting agencies
for costs of instruction in schools of nursing as may be feasible
in accordance with appropriations made by the Legislature for this
purpose. However, no reimbursement may be made to contracting
agencies in excess of the actual cost of instruction in the
schools of nursing.

In addition to the powers now vested by law in the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning and subject to the availability of funds specifically appropriated therefor, the board shall conduct a one-year feasibility study and comprehensive plan for nursing schools in Mississippi that addresses the concept of shared utilization of clinical simulation laboratories for all Mississippi schools of nursing in order to provide computerized interactive learning capabilities for all schools, utilizing the pooled resources or mobile capability models from other states. The completed plan shall be developed and a report made to the 2009 Regular Session on or before December 1, 2008.

No provision of this section shall be construed to authorize any department, agency, officer or employee of the State of Mississippi to exercise any controls over the admissions policy of any private educational institution offering a baccalaureate degree in nursing.

285 **SECTION 5.** Section 73-15-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

73-15-25. In addition to all other powers and duties now vested by law in the State Department of Education, it shall, acting in this behalf by and through its Division of Vocational Education * * *:

291 <u>(a)</u> Contract with the State Board for Community and
292 Junior Colleges to establish by rules and regulations and
293 promulgate uniform standards for the accreditation of schools of
294 practical nursing in this state insofar as concerns the



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- 295 eligibility of graduates of $\underline{\text{those}}$ schools to take the examination
- 296 to become licensed practical nurses;
- 297 (b) Contract with the State Board for Community and
- 298 Junior Colleges to issue to those schools certificates of
- 299 accreditation as may be proper under those standards.
- 300 (c) Under the provisions of Section 1 of this act,
- 301 provide funding to nursing schools and degree programs for
- 302 practical nursing to hire additional faculty members for the
- 303 nursing school or program, and require any nursing school or
- 304 program that receives the funding to increase the enrollment at
- 305 the school or program proportionately for each additional faculty
- 306 member hired with the funding.
- 307 **SECTION 6.** Section 71-5-353, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 308 amended as follows:
- 309 71-5-353. (1) Each employer shall pay contributions equal
- 310 to five and four-tenths percent (5.4%) of taxable wages paid by
- 311 him each calendar year, except as may be otherwise provided in
- 312 Section 71-5-361 and except that each newly subject employer shall
- 313 pay contributions at the rate of two and four-tenths percent
- 314 (2.4%) of taxable wages through December 31, 2010, and thereafter
- 315 one percent (1%) of taxable wages, for his first year of
- 316 liability, one and one-tenth percent (1.1%) of taxable wages for
- 317 his second year of liability, and one and two-tenths percent
- 318 (1.2%) of taxable wages for his third and subsequent years of
- 319 liability unless the employer's experience-rating record has been
- 320 chargeable throughout at least the twelve (12) consecutive
- 321 calendar months ending on the most recent computation date at the
- 322 time the rate for a year is determined; thereafter the employer's
- 323 contribution rate shall be determined in accordance with the
- 324 provisions of Section 71-5-355.
- 325 (2) From and after January 1, 2005, through December 31,
- 326 2009, contribution rates assigned to employers by the department,
- 327 as determined pursuant to Sections 71-5-351, 71-5-353 and

- 328 71-5-355, shall be reduced by three-tenths of one percent (.3%).
- 329 Such reduction shall only apply to employers whose contribution
- 330 rate, determined in accordance with Sections 71-5-353 and
- 331 71-5-355, is equal to or less than five and four-tenths percent
- (5.4%), and shall include a three-tenths of one percent (.3%)
- 333 reduction to the rate as a result of violation of provisions of
- 334 this chapter. The reduction in rates provided for herein shall
- 335 not apply to state boards, instrumentalities and political
- 336 subdivisions of the State of Mississippi referred to in Sections
- 71-5-357 and 71-5-359, or to nonprofit employers providing
- 338 reimbursement to the department for the unemployment fund pursuant
- 339 to Section 71-5-357(a).
- 340 (3) (a) From and after January 1, 2005, through December
- 341 31, 2009, the workforce enhancement contributions shall be applied
- 342 at a rate of three-tenths of one percent (.3%) upon the taxable
- 343 wages, however, the workforce enhancement contribution shall not
- 344 be applied to state boards, instrumentalities and political
- 345 subdivisions of the State of Mississippi referred to in Sections
- 71-5-357 and 71-5-359, or to nonprofit employers providing
- 347 reimbursement to the department for the unemployment fund pursuant
- 348 to Section 71-5-357(a).
- 349 (b) There is hereby created in the Treasury of the
- 350 State of Mississippi a special fund to be known as the
- 351 "Mississippi Workforce Enhancement Training Fund," which consists
- 352 of funds collected pursuant to this subsection (3) and subsection
- 353 (4) of this section. Funds collected shall initially be deposited
- 354 into the Mississippi Department of Employment Security tax bank
- 355 account for clearing contribution collections and subsequently
- 356 transferred to the Mississippi Workforce Enhancement Training Fund
- 357 holding account described in Section 71-5-453. In the event any
- 358 employer pays an amount insufficient to cover the total
- 359 contributions due, the amounts due shall be satisfied in the
- 360 following order:

362	(ii) Workforce enhancement training contributions;
363	(iii) Interest and damages; then
364	(iv) Legal and processing costs.
365	The amount of contributions due for any period will be the
366	amount due according to the actual computations unless the
367	employer is participating in the MLPP. In that event, the amount
368	due is the MLPP amount computed by the department.
369	Cost of collection and administration of the workforce
370	enhancement training contribution shall be allocated based on a
371	plan approved by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) and
372	shall be paid to the Mississippi Department of Employment Security
373	semiannually by the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges
374	for periods ending in December and June of each year. Payment
375	shall be made to the department no later than sixty (60) days
376	after the billing date.
377	(c) All monies collected will be initially deposited
378	into the Mississippi Department of Employment Security bank
379	account for clearing contribution collections and subsequently
380	transferred to the Mississippi Workforce Enhancement Training Fund
381	holding account and will be held by the Mississippi Department of
382	Employment Security in such account for a period of not less than
383	sixty (60) days. After such period, funds shall be transferred
384	within thirty (30) days to the Mississippi Workforce Enhancement
385	Training Fund in a manner determined by the department. Interest
386	earnings or interest credits on deposit amounts shall be retained
387	in the holding account to pay the banking costs of the account.
388	If after the period of twelve (12) months interest earnings less
389	banking costs exceeds Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00), such
390	excess amounts shall be transferred to the Mississippi Workforce
391	Enhancement Training Fund treasury account within thirty (30)
392	days. Such transfers shall occur once annually, during the month
393	of January.

Unemployment contributions;

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(i)

delinquent contributions contained in Sections 71-5-363 through 395 71-5-383 shall be applicable in all respects for collections of 396 397 delinquent contributions designated for the Unemployment 398 Compensation Fund and the Mississippi Workforce Enhancement Training Fund. 399 400 (i) Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (e) (ii) of this paragraph (e), all monies deposited into the 401 402 Mississippi Workforce Enhancement Training Fund shall be used exclusively by the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges 403 404 in accordance with the Workforce Training Act of 1994 (Section 405 37-153-1 et seq.) and the annual plan developed by the State Workforce Investment Board for the following purposes: to provide 406 407 training at no charge to employers and employees in order to 408 enhance employee productivity. That training may be subject to a 409 minimal administrative fee to be paid from the Mississippi 410 Workforce Enhancement Training Fund as established by the State 411 Workforce Investment Board subject to the advice of the State 412 Board for Community and Junior Colleges. The initial priority of 413 these funds shall be for the benefit of existing businesses 414 located within the state. Employers may request training for 415 existing employees and/or newly hired employees from the State 416 Board for Community and Junior Colleges. The State Board for Community and Junior Colleges will be responsible for approving 417 418 the training. (ii) In addition to the purposes prescribed in 419 420 subparagraph (i) of this paragraph for which the monies in the 421 Mississippi Workforce Enhancement Training Fund may be expended, 422 monies in the fund may be appropriated by the Legislature to 423 provide funding to nursing schools and degree programs at state institutions of higher learning and at public community and junior 424 425 colleges to hire additional faculty members for the nursing school 426 or program, as provided in Section 1 of this act.

All enforcement procedures for the collection of

427 (4) The following procedure shall apply for tax years 428 subsequent to December 31, 2009:

(a) Workforce enhancement training contributions shall be collected at a rate of three-tenths of one percent (.3%) through December 31, 2010, based upon taxable wages, and at a rate of fifteen one-hundredths of one percent (.15%) thereafter, based upon taxable wages. Training contributions shall be reduced by the amount necessary to prevent any employer from having a combined rate greater than five and four-tenths percent (5.4%).

(b) All workforce enhancement training contributions collected shall be deposited initially into the Mississippi Department of Employment Security bank account for clearing contribution collections and shall within two (2) business days be transferred to the Workforce Enhancement Training Fund holding account. Any workforce enhancement training contribution transactions from the Mississippi Department of Employment Security account for clearing contribution collections that are deposited into the Workforce Enhancement Training Fund holding account and are not honored by a financial institution will be transferred back to the Mississippi Department of Employment Security account for clearing contribution collections out of funds in the Workforce Enhancement Training Fund holding account.

suspension of the workforce enhancement training contributions required pursuant to this subsection (4) shall occur if the insured unemployment rate exceeds an average of five and five-tenths percent (5.5%) for the three (3) consecutive months immediately preceding the effective date of the new rate year and shall remain suspended throughout the duration of that rate year. Such suspension shall continue until such time as the three (3) consecutive months immediately preceding the effective date of any subsequent rate year has an insured unemployment rate of less than an average of four and five-tenths percent (4.5%).

460	(5) All collections due or accrued prior to any suspension
461	of the Workforce Enhancement Training Fund will be collected based
462	upon the law at the time the contributions accrued, regardless of
463	when they are actually due or collected.
464	SECTION 7. This act shall take effect and be in force from

and after July 1, 2012.