

By: Representatives White, Sykes, Dixon

To: Public Health and Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 473

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 73-26-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 EXTEND THE DATE OF THE REPEALER ON THE PROVISION THAT AUTHORIZES
3 THE ISSUANCE OF A TEMPORARY LICENSE TO APPLICANTS FOR LICENSURE AS
4 A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT WHO MEET ALL LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS EXCEPT
5 FOR THE MASTER'S DEGREE UPON PROOF OF ENROLLMENT IN A MASTER'S
6 PROGRAM THAT WILL MEET THE MASTER'S DEGREE REQUIREMENT; AND FOR
7 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

11 73-26-3. (1) The State Board of Medical Licensure shall
12 license and regulate the practice of physician assistants in
13 accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

14 (2) All physician assistants who are employed as physician
15 assistants by a Department of Veterans Affairs health care
16 facility, a branch of the United States military or the Federal
17 Bureau of Prisons, and who are practicing as physician assistants
18 in a federal facility in Mississippi on July 1, 2000, and those
19 physician assistants who trained in a Mississippi physician
20 assistant program and have been continuously practicing as a



21 physician assistant in Mississippi since 1976, shall be eligible
22 for licensure if they submit an application for licensure to the
23 board by December 31, 2000. Physician assistants licensed under
24 this subsection will be eligible for license renewal so long as
25 they meet standard renewal requirements.

26 (3) Before December 31, 2004, applicants for physician
27 assistant licensure, except those licensed under subsection (2) of
28 this section, must be graduates of physician assistant educational
29 programs accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied
30 Health Educational Programs or its predecessor or successor
31 agency, have passed the certification examination administered by
32 the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants
33 (NCCPA), have current NCCPA certification, and possess a minimum
34 of a baccalaureate degree. Physician assistants meeting these
35 licensure requirements will be eligible for license renewal so
36 long as they meet standard renewal requirements.

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

42 (5) Applicants for licensure who meet all licensure
43 requirements except for the master's degree may be granted a
44 temporary license by the board so long as they can show proof of
45 enrollment in a master's program that will, when completed, meet



46 the master's degree requirement. The temporary license will be
47 valid for no longer than one (1) year, and may not be renewed.
48 This subsection shall stand repealed on July 1, * * * 2019.

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

54 (7) To qualify for a Mississippi physician assistant
55 license, an applicant must have successfully been cleared for
56 licensure through an investigation that shall consist of a
57 determination as to good moral character and verification that the
58 prospective licensee is not guilty of or in violation of any
59 statutory ground for denial of licensure. To assist the board in
60 conducting its licensure investigation, all applicants shall
61 undergo a fingerprint-based criminal history records check of the
62 Mississippi central criminal database and the Federal Bureau of
63 Investigation criminal history database. Each applicant shall
64 submit a full set of the applicant's fingerprints in a form and
65 manner prescribed by the board, which shall be forwarded to the
66 Mississippi Department of Public Safety (department) and the
67 Federal Bureau of Investigation Identification Division for this
68 purpose.

69 Any and all state or national criminal history records
70 information obtained by the board that is not already a matter of



71 public record shall be deemed nonpublic and confidential
72 information restricted to the exclusive use of the board, its
73 members, officers, investigators, agents and attorneys in
74 evaluating the applicant's eligibility or disqualification for
75 licensure, and shall be exempt from the Mississippi Public Records
76 Act of 1983. Except when introduced into evidence in a hearing
77 before the board to determine licensure, no such information or
78 records related thereto shall, except with the written consent of
79 the applicant or by order of a court of competent jurisdiction, be
80 released or otherwise disclosed by the board to any other person
81 or agency.

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

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

92 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
93 and after July 1, 2016.

