

By: Representative Banks

To: Universities and  
Colleges; Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 635

1 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 37-106-64, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
 2 1972, TO CREATE THE STATE PODIATRIC FORGIVABLE LOAN PROGRAM, WHICH  
 3 WILL ENABLE ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS TO OBTAIN AN EDUCATION IN THE  
 4 STUDY OF PODIATRY THAT WILL QUALIFY THEM TO BECOME LICENSED,  
 5 PRACTICING PODIATRISTS; TO AUTHORIZE RECIPIENTS TO REPAY THEIR  
 6 LOANS BY ENTRY INTO THE PRACTICE OF PODIATRY IN AN AREA OUTSIDE OF  
 7 A METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA AND WITHIN A HEALTH PROFESSIONAL  
 8 SHORTAGE AREA FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS; AND FOR RELATED  
 9 PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section  
 12 37-106-64, Mississippi Code of 1972:

13 37-106-64. (1) There is created the state podiatric  
 14 forgivable loan program. The purpose of the program shall be to  
 15 enable eligible applicants who desire to become podiatrists to  
 16 obtain a standard four-year education in the study of podiatry at  
 17 a college of podiatric medicine accredited by the Council on  
 18 Podiatric Medical Education, which will qualify them to become  
 19 licensed, practicing podiatrists.

20 (2) The board shall establish, by rule and regulation, the  
 21 maximum annual award which may be made under this program at an



22 amount not to exceed the cost of tuition and other expenses, and  
23 shall establish the maximum number of awards, which may be made  
24 not to exceed the length of time required to complete the degree  
25 requirements.

26 (3) Repayment and conversion terms shall be the same as  
27 those outlined in Section 37-106-53 and shall include the  
28 following:

29 (a) Payment in full of principal and interest must be  
30 made in sixty (60) or less equal monthly installments;

31 (b) In lieu of payment in full of both principal and  
32 interest, a loan recipient may elect to repay by entry into public  
33 health work at a state health institution as defined in Section  
34 37-106-67(2), or community health centers that are grantees under  
35 Section 330 of the United States Public Health Service Act;

36 (c) In lieu of payment in full of both principal and  
37 interest, a loan recipient may elect to repay by entry into the  
38 practice of podiatry in an area outside of a metropolitan  
39 statistical area, as defined and established by the United States  
40 Census Bureau, and within a health professional shortage area, as  
41 annually determined by the State Board of Health, for a period of  
42 five (5) years.

43 (4) The board shall establish the rules and regulations as  
44 it deems necessary and proper to carry out the purposes and intent  
45 of this section.



46           **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
47 and after July 1, 2018.

