

By: Representatives Mettetal, Sykes, Gibbs
(72nd), Holloway

To: Universities and
Colleges; Public Health and
Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 721

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 73-15-25 AND 75-60-4, MISSISSIPPI
2 CODE OF 1972, TO TRANSFER THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING THE
3 STANDARDS OF ACCREDITATION AND RECOVERING FEES RELATED TO
4 ACCREDITATION ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOLS OF PRACTICAL NURSING FROM THE
5 MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD TO THE MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF
6 NURSING; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 73-15-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 73-15-25. Beginning on July 1, 2019, in addition to all
11 other powers and duties now vested by law in the State Department
12 of Education, it is hereby empowered and required, acting in this
13 behalf by and through its Division of Vocational Education, to:

14 1. Contract with the * * * Mississippi Board of Nursing
15 to establish by rules and regulations and promulgate uniform
16 standards for the accreditation of schools of practical nursing in
17 this state insofar as concerns the eligibility of graduates of
18 such schools to take the examination to become licensed practical
19 nurses;



20 2. Contract with the * * * Mississippi Board of Nursing
21 to issue to such schools certificates of accreditation as may be
22 proper under such standards.

23 **SECTION 2.** Section 75-60-4, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
24 amended as follows:

25 75-60-4. (1) The Mississippi Community College Board shall
26 appoint a "Commission on Proprietary School and College
27 Registration" to be composed of five (5) qualified members, one
28 (1) appointed from each of the five (5) Mississippi congressional
29 districts existing on January 1, 1992. The membership of said
30 commission shall be composed of persons who have held a teaching,
31 managerial or other similar position with any public, private,
32 trade, technical or other school; provided, however, that one (1)
33 member of the commission shall be actively engaged in, or retired
34 from, teaching, managerial or other similar position with a
35 privately owned trade, technical or other school. The membership
36 of said commission shall be appointed by the board within ninety
37 (90) days of the passage of this chapter. In making the first
38 appointments, two (2) members shall be appointed for three (3)
39 years, two (2) members for four (4) years, and one (1) member for
40 five (5) years. Thereafter, all members shall be appointed for a
41 term of five (5) years. If one (1) of the members appointed by
42 the board resigns or is otherwise unable to serve, a new member
43 shall be appointed by the commission to fill the unexpired term.
44 All five (5) members of the commission have full voting rights.



45 The members shall not be paid for their services, but may be
46 compensated for the expenses necessarily incurred in the
47 attendance at meetings or in performing other services for the
48 commission at a rate prescribed under Section 25-3-69, Mississippi
49 Code of 1972, plus actual expenses and mileage as provided by
50 Section 25-3-41, Mississippi Code of 1972. Members of the
51 commission shall annually elect a chairman from among its members
52 who is not actively engaged with a privately owned trade or
53 technical school.

54 (2) The Mississippi Community College Board shall appoint
55 such staff as may be required for the performance of the
56 commission's duties and provide necessary facilities.

57 (3) The Mississippi Community College Board shall levy * * *
58 fees authorized in this chapter only in such amounts as may be
59 required for the performance of the commission's duties.

60 (4) In addition to the fees authorized in this chapter, the
61 Mississippi Community College Board is authorized to levy and
62 collect fees from proprietary schools and colleges * * * to
63 recover the cost of audits, investigations and hearings relating
64 to such institutions * * *.

65 (5) It shall be the purpose of the Commission on Proprietary
66 School and College Registration to establish and implement the
67 registration program as provided in this chapter. All
68 controversies involving the registration of such schools shall be
69 initially heard by a duly authorized hearing officer of the



70 commission before whom a complete record shall be made. After the
71 conclusion of the hearing, the duly authorized hearing officer of
72 the commission shall make a recommendation to the commission as to
73 the resolution of the controversies, and the commission, after
74 considering the transcribed record and the recommendation of its
75 hearing officer, shall make its decision which becomes final
76 unless the school or college or other person involved shall appeal
77 to the Mississippi Community College Board, which appeal shall be
78 on the record previously made before the commission's hearing
79 officer except as may be provided by rules and regulations adopted
80 by the Mississippi Community College Board. All appeals from the
81 Mississippi Community College Board shall be on the record and
82 shall be filed in the Chancery Court of the First Judicial
83 District of Hinds County, Mississippi.

84 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
85 and after July 1, 2018.

