

By: Senator(s) Harkins

To: Universities and  
Colleges; Public Health and  
Welfare

SENATE BILL NO. 2376

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 73-15-25, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO TRANSFER THE ACCREDITATION AUTHORITY OVER SCHOOLS OF PRACTICAL  
3 NURSING FROM THE MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD TO THE  
4 MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF NURSING; TO AMEND SECTION 75-60-4,  
5 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO DELETE THE AUTHORITY OF THE  
6 MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD TO CHARGE PROPRIETARY  
7 INSTITUTIONS TO ACCREDIT THEIR PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAMS; AND FOR  
8 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

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

16 1. Beginning July 1, 2019, contract with the  
17 Mississippi \* \* \* Board of Nursing to establish by rules and  
18 regulations and promulgate uniform standards for the accreditation  
19 of schools of practical nursing in this state insofar as concerns  
20 the eligibility of graduates of such schools to take the  
21 examination to become licensed practical nurses;



22           2.   Beginning July 1, 2019, contract with the  
23   Mississippi \* \* \* Board of Nursing to issue to such schools  
24   certificates of accreditation as may be proper under such  
25   standards.

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

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



47 All five (5) members of the commission have full voting rights.  
48 The members shall not be paid for their services, but may be  
49 compensated for the expenses necessarily incurred in the  
50 attendance at meetings or in performing other services for the  
51 commission at a rate prescribed under Section 25-3-69, Mississippi  
52 Code of 1972, plus actual expenses and mileage as provided by  
53 Section 25-3-41, Mississippi Code of 1972. Members of the  
54 commission shall annually elect a chairman from among its members  
55 who is not actively engaged with a privately owned trade or  
56 technical school.

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

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

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

68 (5) It shall be the purpose of the Commission on Proprietary  
69 School and College Registration to establish and implement the  
70 registration program as provided in this chapter. All  
71 controversies involving the registration of such schools shall be



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

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

