

By: Representatives Mims, Dixon, Sykes

To: Public Health and Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 977

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE TEAM PHYSICIANS FOR OUT-OF-STATE ATHLETIC  
 2 TEAMS TO PROVIDE MEDICAL TREATMENT AND EVALUATION FOR PLAYERS AND  
 3 STAFF MEMBERS OF THE TEAM WHEN PARTICIPATING IN SPORTING EVENTS IN  
 4 MISSISSIPPI, WITHOUT HAVING TO BE LICENSED IN MISSISSIPPI; TO  
 5 PRESCRIBE THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THOSE PHYSICIANS MAY PRACTICE  
 6 IN MISSISSIPPI; TO LIMIT THE EXTENT OF THE MEDICAL PRACTICE  
 7 ALLOWED FOR THOSE PHYSICIANS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE PRACTICE OF  
 8 MEDICINE OUTSIDE OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES AUTHORIZED IN THIS ACT  
 9 CONSTITUTES THE ILLEGAL PRACTICE OF MEDICINE; TO AMEND SECTION  
 10 73-25-19, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM TO THE PROVISIONS  
 11 OF THIS ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

13 **SECTION 1.** The purpose of this act is to set forth certain  
 14 exemptions and stipulations as to the practice of medicine in  
 15 Mississippi by physicians travelling from out of state with sports  
 16 teams for sporting events conducted in the state. Further, it is  
 17 the intent of this act to set forth the requirements of those  
 18 physicians to practice medicine in Mississippi temporarily without  
 19 obtaining Mississippi licensure.

20 **SECTION 2.** As used in this act, the following terms shall  
 21 have the meanings as defined in this section:



22 (a) "Athletic team" or "team" means a group of people  
23 representing a specific organization or entity engaged in sporting  
24 activities, such as baseball or football, which require medical  
25 personnel to treat or evaluate injuries sustained in the activity.

26 (b) "Staff members" means those individuals directly  
27 affiliated with the sports organization or entity whose purpose is  
28 to support the players or members of the team during a sporting  
29 event. This term includes, but is not limited to, trainers,  
30 coaches, equipment personnel, communications staff, band members,  
31 cheerleaders and the team mascot. This term does not include  
32 parents, boosters or other individuals who are simply present or  
33 attending the sporting event.

34 (c) "Team physician" means a health care professional  
35 who holds an unrestricted medical license in the athletic team's  
36 state of origin, who travels with the team to away games or events  
37 for the purpose of providing medical treatment and evaluation for  
38 players and staff members of the team.

39 **SECTION 3.** (1) A physician licensed in another state,  
40 territory or jurisdiction of the United States is exempt from the  
41 licensure requirements in Mississippi under the following  
42 conditions related to athletic team-based practice:

43 (a) The physician is employed or formally designated as  
44 the team physician by an athletic team visiting Mississippi for a  
45 specific sporting event;



46 (b) The physician limits the practice of medicine in  
47 Mississippi to medical treatment of the players, coaches and staff  
48 members of the sports organization or entity that employs or has  
49 designated the physician; and

50 (c) The physician is licensed in the state in which the  
51 sports organization or entity is based or housed.

52 (2) In addition to the authority granted under subsection  
53 (1) of this section, physicians authorized to practice under this  
54 section may treat players or staff members from the home team in  
55 Mississippi if the physician has specialized training or  
56 experience beyond that of the home team physician.

57 (3) The extent of the medical practice allowed under this  
58 section is limited to the following aspects of the game or  
59 sporting event:

60 (a) Pre-game warm-up and any postgame activities;

61 (b) During the actual game or sporting event;

62 (c) Travel to and from the sporting event within  
63 Mississippi; and

64 (d) In-state lodging of the team and staff members.

65 (4) It is the responsibility of the team or sports  
66 organization or entity employing the team physician to verify that  
67 the physician is licensed and in good standing in the appropriate  
68 jurisdiction as required under this section.

69 **SECTION 4.** The practice of medicine outside of the  
70 circumstances authorized in this act constitutes the illegal



71 practice of medicine, in violation of Section 97-23-43, and  
72 violators shall be subject to all fines and penalties described in  
73 that section.

74 **SECTION 5.** Section 73-25-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
75 amended as follows:

76 73-25-19. Nonresident physicians not holding a license from  
77 the state shall not be permitted to practice medicine under any  
78 circumstances after remaining in the state for five (5) days,  
79 except when called in consultation by a licensed physician  
80 residing in this state or except as authorized under Sections 1  
81 through 4 of this act. This section shall not apply to any  
82 nonresident physician who holds a temporary license to practice  
83 medicine at a youth camp issued under the provisions of Section  
84 75-74-8 and Section 73-25-17.

85 **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
86 and after its passage.

