

**Adopted
COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

Senate Bill No. 2524

BY: Committee

**Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting
in lieu thereof the following:**

15 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-144-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
16 amended as follows:

17 37-144-3. (1) The Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship
18 Program shall be administered by a commission to be known as the
19 "Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Commission." The
20 commission shall be directed by a board composed of the following
21 members:

22 (a) Two (2) generalist physicians appointed by and from
23 the membership of the Mississippi State Medical Association, the



24 term of which shall be three (3) years and may be reappointed for
25 one (1) additional term;

26 (b) One (1) generalist physician appointed by and from
27 the membership of each of the following organizations, the term of
28 which shall be three (3) years and may be reappointed for one (1)
29 additional term:

30 (i) Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians;

31 (ii) Mississippi Chapter, American College of
32 Physicians;

33 (iii) Mississippi Chapter, American Academy of
34 Pediatrics;

35 (iv) Mississippi Chapter, American College of
36 OB-GYN;

37 (v) Mississippi Medical and Surgical Association;

38 (vi) Mississippi Osteopathic Association;

39 (c) Two (2) designees of the Dean of the University of
40 Mississippi School of Medicine whose terms are at the discretion
41 of the dean, at least one (1) of whom is a member of the
42 University of Mississippi School of Medicine Admissions Committee;

43 (d) Two (2) medical students, one (1) of whom shall be
44 selected yearly through a process developed by the Dean of the
45 School of Medicine in consultation with the Chairs of the
46 Departments of Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, OB-GYN and
47 Pediatrics, and one (1) of whom shall be nominated for a one-year
48 term by the Mississippi Chapter of the Student National Medical



49 Association and approved by the Dean of the University of
50 Mississippi School of Medicine;

51 (e) A member of the Board of Trustees of State
52 Institutions of Higher Learning; * * *

53 (f) The Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at
54 the University of Mississippi School of Medicine * * *; and

55 (g) A licensed psychiatrist appointed by the
56 Mississippi Chapter of the American Psychiatric Association.

57 (2) The premedical advisors from the accredited four-year
58 colleges and universities in the state and the directors or
59 designees of the primary care generalist training programs in the
60 State of Mississippi shall comprise an advisory committee to the
61 commission to assist the commission in its administration of the
62 Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program.

63 (3) Vacancies on the commission must be filled in a manner
64 consistent with the original appointments.

65 (4) All appointments to the commission must be made no later
66 than September 1, * * * 2019. After the members are appointed,
67 the Chair of the Department of Family Medicine shall set a date
68 for the organizational meeting that is mutually acceptable to the
69 majority of the commission members. The organizational meeting
70 shall be for the purposes of organizing the commission and
71 establishing rules for transacting its business. A majority of
72 the members of the commission shall constitute a quorum at all
73 commission meetings. An affirmative vote of a majority of the



74 members present and voting shall be required in the adoption of
75 rules, reports and in any other actions taken by the commission.
76 At the organizational meeting, the commission shall elect a chair
77 and vice chair from the members appointed according to paragraphs
78 (a) through (d) of subsection (1). The chair shall serve for a
79 term of two (2) years, upon the expiration of which the vice chair
80 shall assume the office of chair.

81 (5) After the organizational meeting, the commission shall
82 hold no less than two (2) meetings annually.

83 (6) The commission may form an executive committee for the
84 purpose of transacting business that must be conducted before the
85 next regularly scheduled meeting of the commission. All actions
86 taken by the executive committee must be ratified by the
87 commission at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

88 (7) Members of the commission shall serve without
89 compensation but may be reimbursed, subject to the availability of
90 funding, for mileage and actual and necessary expenses incurred in
91 attending meetings of the commission.

92 (8) Funding for the establishment and continued operation of
93 the program and commission shall be appropriated out of any money
94 in the General Fund not already appropriated to the University of
95 Mississippi Medical Center.

96 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-144-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
97 amended as follows:



98 37-144-5. The Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship
99 Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

100 (a) Developing the administrative policy for the
101 commission and the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship
102 Program;

103 (b) Promulgating rules and regulations, with the advice
104 and consent of the University of Mississippi Medical Center,
105 pertaining to the implementation and operation of the Rural
106 Physicians Scholarship Program;

107 (c) Developing and implementing strategies and
108 activities for the identification and recruitment of students and
109 for marketing the program and for the implementation of the
110 program. In developing these strategies, the board shall seek the
111 input of various organizations and entities, including the
112 Mississippi State Medical Association, the Mississippi Academy of
113 Family Physicians, the Mississippi Chapters of the American
114 College of Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the
115 American College of OB-GYN, the Mississippi Medical and Surgical
116 Association * * *, the Mississippi Osteopathic Medicine
117 Association and the American Psychiatric Association;

118 (d) Establishing a budget, with the advice and consent
119 of the University of Mississippi Medical Center, to support the
120 activities of the program and periodically reviewing and if
121 appropriate, revising, the scholarship and other stipends offered
122 through the program;



123 (e) Advising the University of Mississippi Medical
124 Center regarding hiring an executive director and support staff
125 necessary for the commission's work. The commission shall
126 nominate at least two (2) individuals to serve as executive
127 director;

128 (f) Reviewing participants progress in the program and
129 mentoring students and physicians participating in the program;

130 (g) Developing and participating in programs that
131 provide initial practice support in collaboration with other
132 interested professional organizations;

133 (h) The commission shall have the authority through use
134 of generally applicable definitions, to designate an area of the
135 state as underserved or rural. The method by which these
136 designations shall be made shall be contained in rules and
137 regulations promulgated by the commission.

138 **SECTION 3.** Section 37-144-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
139 amended as follows:

140 37-144-7. (1) The commission shall develop and implement
141 policies and procedures designed to recruit, identify and enroll
142 undergraduate students who demonstrate necessary interest,
143 commitment, aptitude and academic achievement to pursue careers as
144 family physicians or other generalist physicians in rural or
145 medically underserved areas of Mississippi, and to develop and
146 implement the programs designed to foster successful entry of
147 participants into medical school, completion of medical school,



148 enrollment into and completion of family medicine or other
149 generalist residency, and establishment and maintenance of a
150 career in family medicine or other generalist specialty in a rural
151 or underserved area of Mississippi.

152 (2) The commission shall have the authority through use of
153 generally applicable definitions, to designate an area of the
154 state as underserved or rural.

155 (3) The commission, in conjunction with the University of
156 Mississippi Medical Center, shall have the authority to provide
157 students selected for scholarship funding with faculty mentors and
158 other programs designed to enhance the students' likelihood of
159 admission to the medical school. The commission and the
160 University of Mississippi Medical Center will develop coursework
161 that will provide scholarship students with the skills necessary
162 for sustained and successful medical practice in rural
163 Mississippi.

164 (4) Each applicant for admission to the program must submit
165 an application to the commission that conforms to requirements
166 established by the commission.

167 (5) In selecting participants for the program, the board may
168 only accept an applicant if his or her academic record and other
169 characteristics, if given consideration by the University of
170 Mississippi School of Medicine Admissions Committee, would be
171 considered credible and competitive.



172 (6) An applicant for the program may be admitted only upon a
173 majority vote of the members of the commission.

174 (7) Not less than fifteen (15) students will be admitted to
175 the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program each year,
176 provided that there are fifteen (15) or more qualified applicants
177 for the program.

178 (8) Upon the funding of sixty-one (61) or more rural
179 physicians scholarships by the Legislature and recognizing the
180 importance of balancing the needs of comprehensive primary care
181 along with a critical shortage of psychiatrists in Mississippi,
182 the commission may grant an exception for fourth-year medical or
183 osteopathic school (M4) students who demonstrate a desire to
184 practice psychiatry in rural Mississippi and who use a practice
185 model and enter the practice of medicine in a rural or underserved
186 area in Mississippi, as defined by commission beginning for the M4
187 class of 2020.

188 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
189 and after July 1, 2019.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-144-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO ADD A LICENSED PSYCHIATRIST AS A MEMBER OF THE MISSISSIPPI
3 RURAL PHYSICIANS SCHOLARSHIP COMMISSION; TO AMEND SECTION
4 37-144-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO INCLUDE THE AMERICAN
5 PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION AMONG THE ORGANIZATIONS FROM WHICH THE
6 COMMISSION SHALL SEEK INPUT REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
7 MISSISSIPPI RURAL PHYSICIANS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; TO AMEND SECTION
8 37-144-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSION TO



9 GRANT AN EXCEPTION FOR FOURTH-YEAR MEDICAL SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO
10 DEMONSTRATE A DESIRE TO PRACTICE PSYCHIATRY IN RURAL MISSISSIPPI
11 AND WHO USE A PRACTICE MODEL AND ENTER THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE IN
12 A RURAL OR UNDERSERVED AREA IN MISSISSIPPI; AND FOR RELATED
13 PURPOSES.

