

**Adopted
COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

House Bill No. 294

BY: Committee

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

17 **SECTION 1.** Section 41-29-137.1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
18 amended as follows:

19 41-29-137.1. The medical director of a licensed hospice, in
20 his or her discretion, may prescribe controlled substances for a
21 patient of the hospice for terminal disease pain without having an
22 in-person face-to-face visit with the patient before issuing the
23 prescription. The provisions of this section supersede the
24 provisions of any rule or regulation of a licensing agency to the
25 contrary. * * *



26 **SECTION 2.** Section 41-29-137, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
27 amended as follows:

28 41-29-137. (a) (1) Except when dispensed directly by a
29 practitioner, other than a pharmacy, to an ultimate user, no
30 controlled substance in Schedule II, as set out in Section
31 41-29-115, may be dispensed without the written valid prescription
32 of a practitioner. A practitioner shall keep a record of all
33 controlled substances in Schedule I, II and III administered,
34 dispensed or professionally used by him otherwise than by
35 prescription.

36 (2) In emergency situations, as defined by rule of the
37 State Board of Pharmacy, Schedule II drugs may be dispensed upon
38 the oral valid prescription of a practitioner, reduced promptly to
39 writing and filed by the pharmacy. Prescriptions shall be
40 retained in conformity with the requirements of Section 41-29-133.
41 No prescription for a Schedule II substance may be refilled unless
42 renewed by prescription issued by a licensed medical doctor.

43 (b) Except when dispensed directly by a practitioner, other
44 than a pharmacy, to an ultimate user, a controlled substance
45 included in Schedule III or IV, as set out in Sections 41-29-117
46 and 41-29-119, shall not be dispensed without a written or oral
47 valid prescription of a practitioner. The prescription shall not
48 be filled or refilled more than six (6) months after the date
49 thereof or be refilled more than five (5) times, unless renewed by
50 the practitioner.



51 (c) A controlled substance included in Schedule V, as set
52 out in Section 41-29-121, shall not be distributed or dispensed
53 other than for a medical purpose.

54 (d) An optometrist certified to prescribe and use
55 therapeutic pharmaceutical agents under Sections 73-19-153 through
56 73-19-165 shall be authorized to prescribe oral analgesic
57 controlled substances in Schedule IV or V, as pertains to
58 treatment and management of eye disease by written prescription
59 only.

60 (e) Administration by injection of any pharmaceutical
61 product authorized in this section is expressly prohibited except
62 when dispensed directly by a practitioner other than a pharmacy.

63 (f) (1) For the purposes of this article, Title 73, Chapter
64 21, and Title 73, Chapter 25, Mississippi Code of 1972, as it
65 pertains to prescriptions for controlled substances, a "valid
66 prescription" means a prescription that is issued for a legitimate
67 medical purpose in the usual course of professional practice by:

68 (A) A practitioner who has conducted at least one
69 (1) in-person medical evaluation of the patient, except as
70 otherwise authorized by Section 41-29-137.1 * * *; or

71 (B) A covering practitioner.

72 (2) (A) "In-person medical evaluation" means a medical
73 evaluation that is conducted with the patient in the physical
74 presence of the practitioner, without regard to whether portions
75 of the evaluation are conducted by other health professionals.



76 (B) "Covering practitioner" means a practitioner
77 who conducts a medical evaluation other than an in-person medical
78 evaluation at the request of a practitioner who has conducted at
79 least one (1) in-person medical evaluation of the patient or an
80 evaluation of the patient through the practice of telemedicine
81 within the previous twenty-four (24) months and who is temporarily
82 unavailable to conduct the evaluation of the patient.

83 (3) A prescription for a controlled substance based
84 solely on a consumer's completion of an online medical
85 questionnaire is not a valid prescription.

86 (4) Nothing in this subsection (f) shall apply to:

87 (A) A prescription issued by a practitioner
88 engaged in the practice of telemedicine as authorized under state
89 or federal law; or

90 (B) The dispensing or selling of a controlled
91 substance pursuant to practices as determined by the United States
92 Attorney General by regulation.

93 **SECTION 3.** Section 41-85-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
94 amended as follows:

95 41-85-7. (1) The administration of this chapter is vested
96 in the Mississippi Department of Health, which shall:

97 (a) Prepare and furnish all forms necessary under the
98 provisions of this chapter in relation to applications for
99 licensure or renewals thereof;



100 (b) Collect in advance at the time of filing an
101 application for a license or at the time of renewal of a license a
102 fee of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for each site or location
103 of the licensee; any increase in the fee charged by the department
104 under this paragraph shall be in accordance with the provisions of
105 Section 41-3-65;

106 (c) Levy a fee of Eighteen Dollars (\$18.00) per bed for
107 the review of inpatient hospice care; any increase in the fee
108 charged by the department under this paragraph shall be in
109 accordance with the provisions of Section 41-3-65;

110 (d) Conduct annual licensure inspections of all
111 licensees which may be the same inspection as the annual Medicare
112 certification inspection; and

113 (e) Promulgate applicable rules and standards in
114 furtherance of the purpose of this chapter and may amend such
115 rules as may be necessary. The rules shall include, but not be
116 limited to, the following:

117 (i) The qualifications of professional and
118 ancillary personnel in order to adequately furnish hospice care;

119 (ii) Standards for the organization and quality of
120 patient care;

121 (iii) Procedures for maintaining records; and

122 (iv) Provision for the inpatient component of
123 hospice care and for other professional and ancillary hospice
124 services.



125 (2) All fees collected by the department under this section
126 shall be used by the department exclusively for the purposes of
127 licensure, regulation, inspection, investigations and discipline
128 of hospices under this chapter.

129 (3) The State Department of Health shall not process any new
130 applications for hospice licensure or issue any new hospice
131 licenses, except renewals * * *, except as follows:

132 (a) * * * The department shall process applications for
133 new hospice licenses filed during the period from and including
134 March 27, 2017, through and until July 1, 2017, and shall issue no
135 more than five (5) new hospice licenses in accordance with this
136 chapter so long as the related applicant can show good cause for
137 the issuance of the hospice license(s) for which application is
138 made (including specifically, without limitation, the capability
139 and capacity to provide unique or otherwise unavailable services
140 related to serving patients under eighteen (18) years of age in
141 the service area to which such application relates). If the
142 applicant at the time of filing holds one or more hospice
143 licenses, the applicant must be in good standing with the
144 department regarding those licenses. Not more than two (2) of the
145 new hospice licenses issued under this * * * paragraph (a) shall
146 be issued to the same applicant.

147 (b) The department shall process applications for new
148 pediatric palliative care hospice licenses filed during the period
149 from and including the effective date of this section through and



150 until July 1, 2021, and shall issue no more than two (2) new
151 pediatric palliative care hospice licenses in accordance with this
152 chapter so long as the applicant can show good cause for the
153 issuance of the hospice license for which application is made. If
154 the applicant at the time of filing holds one or more hospice
155 licenses, the applicant must be in good standing with the
156 department regarding those licenses. At least one (1) of the new
157 hospice licenses issued under this paragraph (b) shall be issued
158 to an applicant that is located within the Second United States
159 Congressional District as it exists on January 1, 2021. Not more
160 than one (1) of the new hospice licenses issued under this
161 paragraph (b) shall be issued to the same applicant.

162 This subsection (3) shall stand repealed on July 1, * * *
163 2027.

164 (4) The provisions of subsection (3) prohibiting the
165 processing of any new applications for hospice licensure shall not
166 be applicable to an application for license reinstatement by a
167 hospice whose license was temporarily suspended as a result of a
168 federal audit by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,
169 Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG), and the audit has been
170 concluded without any penalty imposed by the federal agency.

171 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
172 and after its passage.

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



1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 41-29-137.1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
2 1972, TO DELETE THE REPEALER ON THE SECTION THAT AUTHORIZES
3 MEDICAL DIRECTORS OF HOSPICES TO PRESCRIBE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES
4 FOR PATIENTS OF THE HOSPICE FOR TERMINAL DISEASE PAIN WITHOUT
5 HAVING AN IN-PERSON FACE-TO-FACE VISIT WITH A PATIENT BEFORE
6 ISSUING A PRESCRIPTION; TO AMEND SECTION 41-29-137, MISSISSIPPI
7 CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM TO THE PRECEDING PROVISION; TO AMEND
8 SECTION 41-85-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE
9 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ISSUE UP TO TWO NEW PEDIATRIC PALLIATIVE
10 CARE HOSPICE LICENSES DURING A CERTAIN PERIOD OF TIME; TO REQUIRE
11 THAT AT LEAST ONE OF THE NEW HOSPICE LICENSES BE ISSUED TO AN
12 APPLICANT THAT IS LOCATED WITHIN THE SECOND UNITED STATES
13 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT; TO EXTEND THE DATE OF THE REPEALER ON THE
14 MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE OF NEW HOSPICE LICENSES; AND FOR
15 RELATED PURPOSES.

