

By: Representative Mims

To: Public Health and Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 1129

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 41-123-1, 41-123-3, 41-123-5,  
2 41-123-7, 41-123-9, AND 41-123-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
3 TRANSFER THE OFFICE OF MISSISSIPPI PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE FROM THE  
4 UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT  
5 OF HEALTH; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 41-123-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
6 1972, FOR THE PURPOSE OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED  
7 PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 41-123-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
10 amended as follows:

11 41-123-1. There is established the Office of Mississippi  
12 Physician Workforce within the \* \* \* State Department of Health  
13 for the purpose of overseeing the physician workforce development  
14 and needs, both in numbers and distribution, of the State of  
15 Mississippi. The office shall have a director, who must be a  
16 physician licensed in the State of Mississippi and who shall be  
17 appointed by the State Health Officer. In addition, the office  
18 shall have a researcher to assist the director in collecting and  
19 analyzing data concerning the physician workforce needs of



20 Mississippi and other necessary staff to assist in its work. The  
21 office shall have the following duties, at a minimum:

22 (a) Assessing the current numbers, ages, types of  
23 practice, hospital affiliations, and geographic distribution of  
24 physicians in each medical specialty in Mississippi;

25 (b) Assessing the current and future physician  
26 workforce needs of the State of Mississippi;

27 (c) Assisting in the creation and/or support of  
28 Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)  
29 accredited GME training programs in the State of Mississippi based  
30 on needs analysis and criteria established by the office and the  
31 advisory board while maintaining a strong and continued priority  
32 focus on family medicine. This support may include the awarding  
33 of state financial assistance as available, for the creation or  
34 support of family medicine residencies and other GME programs  
35 approved by the advisory board;

36 (d) Encouraging the development of an adequate and  
37 geographically distributed physician workforce in all specialties  
38 for the State of Mississippi with an evolving strategic plan; and

39 (e) Providing an annual report to the Governor \* \* \*  
40 and the Legislature \* \* \* on the current status of the physician  
41 workforce and training programs in Mississippi.

42 **SECTION 2.** Section 41-123-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
43 amended as follows:



44 41-123-3. (1) The Office of Mississippi Physician Workforce  
45 shall be administered by \* \* \* the State Department of Health. An  
46 advisory board shall be created to assist \* \* \* the department in  
47 achieving the purpose of this chapter to be known as the  
48 "Mississippi Physician Workforce Advisory Board." The advisory  
49 board shall be composed of the following members:

50 (a) The Chairman of the State Board of Health or his or  
51 her designee. \* \* \*

52 ( \* \* \* b) Two (2) physicians appointed by and from the  
53 membership of the Mississippi State Medical Association for a term  
54 of three (3) years. Any member appointed under this paragraph may  
55 be reappointed for two (2) additional terms.

56 ( \* \* \* c) Two (2) physicians appointed by and from the  
57 membership of the Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians for a  
58 term of three (3) years. Any member appointed under this  
59 paragraph may be reappointed for two (2) additional terms.

60 ( \* \* \* d) One (1) physician appointed by and from the  
61 membership of each of the following organizations, whose terms  
62 shall be for three (3) years and who may be reappointed for two  
63 (2) additional terms:

64 (i) Mississippi Osteopathic Medical Association;

65 (ii) Mississippi Chapter, American College of  
66 Physicians;

67 (iii) Mississippi Chapter, American Academy of  
68 Pediatrics;



69 (iv) Mississippi Chapter, American College of  
70 OB-GYN; and

71 (v) Mississippi Medical and Surgical Association.

72 ( \* \* \*e) Two (2) physician designees of the Dean of  
73 the University of Mississippi School of Medicine, who will serve  
74 at the will and pleasure of the dean. One (1) of the members  
75 appointed under this paragraph must be responsible for Graduate  
76 Medical Education at the University of Mississippi School of  
77 Medicine.

78 ( \* \* \*f) The Chair of the Department of Family  
79 Medicine at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine.

80 ( \* \* \*g) A member of the State Board of Medical  
81 Licensure, who will serve at the will and pleasure of that board.

82 ( \* \* \*h) \* \* \* Two (2) designees of the Dean of the  
83 William Carey \* \* \* University College of Osteopathic Medicine,  
84 who will serve at the will and pleasure of the dean. One (1) of  
85 the designees shall be responsible for GME.

86 ( \* \* \*i) One (1) representative of the Mississippi  
87 Economic Council appointed by the president of the council, and  
88 who will serve at the will and pleasure of the president.

89 ( \* \* \*j) One (1) representative of the Mississippi  
90 Development Authority appointed by the executive director of the  
91 authority, who will serve at the will and pleasure of the  
92 executive director.



93 ( \* \* \*k) One (1) representative of the Mississippi  
94 Hospital Association, who will serve at the will and pleasure of  
95 the association.

96 ( \* \* \*l) Two (2) representatives of the \* \* \*  
97 Community Health Center Association of Mississippi (CHCAM), who  
98 will serve at the will and pleasure of the association.

99 (2) Vacancies on the advisory board must be filled in a  
100 manner consistent with the original appointments.

101 (3) \* \* \* The advisory board \* \* \* shall establish rules for  
102 transacting its business. A majority of the members of the  
103 advisory board shall constitute a quorum at all advisory board  
104 meetings. An affirmative vote of a majority of the members  
105 present and voting shall be required in the making of  
106 recommendations by the advisory board. \* \* \* The advisory board  
107 shall elect a chair and vice chair from \* \* \* among its  
108 members \* \* \*. The chair shall serve for a term of two (2) years,  
109 upon the expiration of which the vice chair shall assume the  
110 office of chair.

111 (4) \* \* \* The advisory board shall hold no less than two (2)  
112 meetings annually.

113 (5) The advisory board may form an executive committee for  
114 the purpose of transacting business that must be conducted before  
115 the next regularly scheduled meeting of the advisory board. All  
116 actions taken by the executive committee must be ratified by the  
117 advisory board at its next regularly scheduled meeting.



118 (6) Members of the advisory board shall serve without  
119 compensation, but may be reimbursed, subject to the availability  
120 of funding, for mileage and actual and necessary expenses incurred  
121 in attending meetings of the advisory board, as provided in  
122 Section 25-3-41.

123 (7) The advisory board shall be housed at the \* \* \* State  
124 Department of Health.

125 **SECTION 3.** Section 41-123-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
126 amended as follows:

127 41-123-5. The Office of Mississippi Physician Workforce  
128 shall have the following powers and duties, at a minimum:

129 (a) Developing the administrative policy for the  
130 advisory board and the office \* \* \*;

131 (b) Developing and implementing strategies and  
132 activities for the office and for the implementation of an  
133 evolving strategic plan to provide for the physician workforce  
134 needs of Mississippi. In developing these strategies, the Office  
135 of Mississippi Physician Workforce and the advisory board shall  
136 seek the input of various organizations and entities including the  
137 Mississippi State Medical Association, the Mississippi Academy of  
138 Family Physicians, the Mississippi Chapters of the American  
139 College of Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, and  
140 American College of OB-GYN, the Mississippi Medical and Surgical  
141 Association, and the Mississippi Osteopathic Medicine Association;



142 (c) Establishing a budget to support the activities of  
143 the office and periodically reviewing and if appropriate,  
144 revising, that budget to meet its mission; and

145 (d) \* \* \* Reviewing the activities of the office and  
146 guiding the office in accomplishing the strategic goal of  
147 providing Mississippi's physician workforce needs.

148 **SECTION 4.** Section 41-123-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
149 amended as follows:

150 41-123-7. (1) The advisory board shall recommend policies  
151 and procedures for the awarding of state funding that creates  
152 and/or provides sustaining support for the desired number of ACGME  
153 accredited Family Medicine residency programs and other valued and  
154 needed fellowships and ACGME residencies approved by the advisory  
155 board that will accept both M.D. and D.O. students or trainees.

156 (2) \* \* \* Office of Mississippi Physician Workforce, with  
157 the input of the advisory board, shall have the authority to award  
158 financial support, from funds specifically appropriated for that  
159 purpose by the Legislature, of up to Three Million Dollars  
160 (\$3,000,000.00) to any hospital or entity with demonstrated  
161 commitment and resources, as determined by \* \* \* office, with  
162 input from the advisory board, to establish and operate an ACGME  
163 accredited Family Medicine residency program or other GME programs  
164 or fellowships qualifying under subsection (1) of this section.  
165 The funds will be dispersed at the determination of \* \* \* office,



166 with input from the advisory board, and may include start-up  
167 funding and/or provide sustaining support for residency programs.

168 (3) Each applicant for state financial support for creation  
169 of an ACGME residency program or fellowship as authorized under  
170 this section must submit an application to \* \* \* the office \* \* \*  
171 that conforms to requirements established by this chapter and  
172 by \* \* \* the office, with input from the advisory board.

173 (4) In selecting recipients for state financial support  
174 authorized under this section, following criteria and  
175 recommendations from the advisory board, \* \* \* the office may use  
176 its discretion to award funding based on demographic needs and the  
177 future success of the residency program.

178 (5) An applicant for state financial support for creation of  
179 an ACGME accredited residency or fellowship program may receive  
180 funding only upon approval of \* \* \* office, with input from the  
181 advisory board.

182 **SECTION 5.** Section 41-123-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
183 amended as follows:

184 41-123-9. (1) Hospitals, other entities and/or residency  
185 programs must adhere to the policies and practices as stipulated  
186 by the Office of Mississippi Physician Workforce to continue  
187 receiving state financial support under this chapter.

188 (2) Hospitals, other entities and/or residency programs may  
189 receive state financial support that may be provided by the  
190 office \* \* \* pursuant to this chapter. Any financial support





191 awarded by the office \* \* \* must be used for only the creation or  
192 support of a residency or \* \* \* fellowship's operational expenses,  
193 or the recipient will be liable for repayment of any financial  
194 support received under this chapter.

195 **SECTION 6.** Section 41-123-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
196 amended as follows:

197 41-123-11. Any residency program or fellowship established  
198 with state financial support must at a minimum be capable of  
199 accepting students or trainees from both allopathic and  
200 osteopathic medical schools that are accredited by the Liaison  
201 Committee on Medical Education (LCME) or the Commission on  
202 Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) of the American  
203 Osteopathic Association (AOA).

204 **SECTION 7.** Section 41-123-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
205 brought forward as follows:

206 41-123-13. Funding for the operation of the Office of  
207 Mississippi Physician Workforce and the Mississippi Physician  
208 Workforce Advisory Board, including the salary of the director of  
209 the office and all necessary staff, shall be paid from funds  
210 specifically appropriated for that purpose by the Legislature.

211 **SECTION 8.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
212 and after July 1, 2024.

