

By: Senator(s) Parks

To: Universities and
Colleges; Appropriations

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 2514

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE NURSING INSTRUCTION PILOT PROGRAM; TO
2 ESTABLISH THE MISSISSIPPI NURSING INSTRUCTION GRANT PROGRAM TO BE
3 ADMINISTERED BY THE MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD; TO SET
4 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND STIPULATIONS FOR USE OF GRANT MONEY;
5 TO CREATE A SPECIAL FUND IN THE STATE TREASURY TO BE DESIGNATED
6 THE MISSISSIPPI NURSING GRANT PROGRAM FUND; AND FOR RELATED
7 PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** (1) For the purposes of this act, the following
10 words shall have the meanings ascribed herein unless the context
11 clearly requires otherwise:

12 (a) "Grant program" means the Mississippi Nursing
13 Instruction Grant Program established in this act.

14 (b) "Pilot program" means the Mississippi Nursing
15 Instruction Pilot Program.

16 (c) "Board" means the Mississippi Community College
17 Board.

18 (d) "Community college" or "college" means any one of
19 the following:

20 (i) Coahoma Community College;



21 (ii) Copiah-Lincoln Community College;
22 (iii) East Central Community College;
23 (iv) East Mississippi Community College;
24 (v) Hinds Community College;
25 (vi) Holmes Community College;
26 (vii) Itawamba Community College;
27 (viii) Jones County Junior College;
28 (ix) Meridian Community College;
29 (x) Mississippi Delta Community College;
30 (xi) Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College;
31 (xii) Northeast Mississippi Community College;
32 (xiii) Northwest Mississippi Community College;
33 (xiv) Pearl River Community College; and
34 (xv) Southwest Mississippi Community College.

35 (2) (a) Subject to appropriation by the Legislature, the
36 Mississippi Community College Board shall establish a Nursing
37 Instruction Pilot Program. The goals of the pilot program, by
38 employing more nursing instructors at a greater salary, are to:

39 (i) Increase the number of admitted students to
40 nursing programs at community colleges in the State of
41 Mississippi;

42 (ii) Increase the number of licensed nurses in
43 Mississippi; and

44 (iii) Provide better quality healthcare services
45 to communities in Mississippi.



46 (b) This subsection (2) shall stand repealed on July 1,
47 2028.

48 (3) There is established the Mississippi Nursing Instruction
49 Grant Program, to serve as a grant program for employing eligible
50 nursing instructors at publicly funded community colleges in
51 Mississippi, to be administered by the board to its fifteen (15)
52 members. The board shall set the dates and deadlines for applying
53 for a grant under this section, and shall establish such rules and
54 regulations as it deems necessary and proper to carry out the
55 purposes and intent of this section.

56 (4) The Mississippi Nursing Instruction Grant Program shall
57 be funded by monies in the fund created in subsection (9) of this
58 section for the purpose of increasing the salaries of nursing
59 instructors and be allocated to colleges to accomplish the
60 following:

61 (a) Increase the overall salaries of currently employed
62 nursing instructors to One Hundred Five Thousand Dollars
63 (\$105,000.00); and

64 (b) Allow colleges to fill up to two (2) vacant nursing
65 instructor positions at an overall salary of One Hundred Five
66 Thousand Dollars (\$105,000.00).

67 (5) Each community college under the purview of the board
68 may submit an application for grant funds under this section.
69 Applicants shall certify to the board that each expenditure of the



funds awarded to them under this section is in compliance with the guidelines established in subsection (3) of this section.

(6) An application for a grant under this section shall be submitted at such time, be in such form, and contain such information as the board prescribes. Each application for grant funds shall include the following at a minimum:

(a) Contact information for an employee of the community college who will serve as the point of contact between the college and the board;

(b) The number of nursing instructors whose overall salaries will be increased to meet the guidelines of subsection (2) of this section, as well as their current overall salaries; and

(c) The number of nursing instructor vacancies the college plans to fill using grant funds, up to two (2) vacancies per college.

(7) The board may apply a system for use in ranking the grant applications received, if there are insufficient funds for all eligible requests under the grant program. The ranking system shall include factors to be determined by the board. The board shall determine a deadline for an initial round of requests under the grant program. After the initial applications determined by the board, applications shall be reviewed and scored on a rolling basis, unless there are sufficient funds for all eligible requests under the grant program.



95 (8) Grant agreements shall be executed between the recipient
96 and the board.

97 (9) There is created a special fund in the State Treasury,
98 to be known as the "Mississippi Nursing Grant Program Fund," from
99 which the grants authorized by this act shall be disbursed by the
100 board upon appropriation by the Legislature. The fund shall be
101 maintained by the State Treasurer as a separate and special fund,
102 separate and apart from the State General Fund. Monies in the
103 fund shall consist of funds made available by the Legislature in
104 any manner and funds from any other source designated for deposit
105 into such fund. Unexpended amounts remaining in the fund at the
106 end of a fiscal year shall remain in the fund and shall not lapse
107 into the State General Fund. Any interest earned or investment
108 earnings or interest earned on amounts in the fund shall be
109 deposited to the credit of the fund.

110 (10) The use of funds allocated under this program shall be
111 subject to audit by the Mississippi Office of the State Auditor.
112 Each community college receiving funds under this program found to
113 be fully or partially noncompliant with the requirements in this
114 section shall return to the state all or a portion of the funds
115 received.

116 (11) By December 1 each year, the board shall submit to the
117 Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House, House and Senate
118 Appropriations Chairmen, and the Legislative Budget Office annual
119 reports that contain the applications received, the score of the



120 applications, the criteria used to determine the score of the
121 applications, the amount of grant funds awarded to each college,
122 the amount of grant funds expended by each college, and the total
123 number of nursing instructors employed at each college for the
124 purpose of reevaluating the amount of monies to be appropriated
125 each year. The score of the applications is not required to be
126 included in the report if sufficient funds exist to fund the total
127 amount of funds for all eligible grant requests under the grant
128 program for the calendar year.

129 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
130 and after its passage.

