

By: Senator(s) Blackwell

To: Public Health and  
Welfare

## SENATE BILL NO. 2672

1       AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 73-15-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 INCLUDE ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES IN THE STATEMENT OF  
3 PURPOSE OF THE MISSISSIPPI NURSING PRACTICE LAW; TO AMEND SECTION  
4 73-15-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO DELETE CERTAIN DEFINITIONS  
5 AND REVISE CERTAIN DEFINITIONS IN THE NURSING PRACTICE LAW  
6 REGARDING ADVANCED NURSING PRACTICE; TO AMEND SECTION 73-15-20,  
7 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE CERTAIN PROVISIONS RELATING TO  
8 THE PRACTICE OF ADVANCED NURSING PRACTICE NURSES; TO PROVIDE THAT  
9 A CERTIFIED NURSE PRACTITIONER, CERTIFIED NURSE MIDWIFE OR  
10 CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENT OF  
11 ENTERING AND MAINTAINING A COLLABORATIVE/CONSULTATIVE RELATIONSHIP  
12 WITH A LICENSED PHYSICIAN OR DENTIST AFTER COMPLETING 3,600  
13 PRACTICE HOURS; TO PROVIDE THAT A CERTIFIED NURSE PRACTITIONER,  
14 CERTIFIED NURSE MIDWIFE OR CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST MAY APPLY  
15 HOURS WORKED BEFORE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT TO FULFILL  
16 THEIR HOUR REQUIREMENT; TO AMEND SECTION 73-15-29, MISSISSIPPI  
17 CODE OF 1972, TO INCLUDE ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES IN  
18 THE PROVISIONS RELATING TO GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS  
19 AGAINST NURSES; TO AMEND SECTION 41-21-131, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
20 1972, TO CONFORM TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT; AND FOR RELATED  
21 PURPOSES.

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

23       **SECTION 1.** Section 73-15-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
24 amended as follows:

25       73-15-3. In order to safeguard life and health, any person  
26 practicing or offering to practice as a registered nurse, an  
27 advanced practice registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse

28 in Mississippi for compensation shall hereafter be required to  
29 submit evidence of qualifications to practice and shall be  
30 licensed or hold the privilege to practice as hereinafter  
31 provided. It shall be unlawful for any person not licensed or  
32 holding the privilege to practice under the provisions of this  
33 article:

34 (a) To practice or offer to practice as a registered  
35 nurse, an advanced practice registered nurse or a licensed  
36 practical nurse;

37 (b) To use a sign, card or device to indicate that such  
38 person is a registered nurse, an advanced practice registered  
39 nurse or a licensed practical nurse.

40 Any person offering to practice nursing in Mississippi must  
41 be licensed or otherwise authorized to practice as provided in  
42 this article.

43           **SECTION 2.** Section 73-15-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
44       amended as follows:

45 73-15-5. (1) "Board" means the Mississippi Board of  
46 Nursing

47 (2) The "practice of nursing" by a registered nurse means  
48 the performance for compensation of services which requires  
49 substantial knowledge of the biological, physical, behavioral,  
50 psychological and sociological sciences and of nursing theory as  
51 the basis for assessment, diagnosis, planning, intervention and  
52 evaluation in the promotion and maintenance of health; management

53 of individuals' responses to illness, injury or infirmity; the  
54 restoration of optimum function; or the achievement of a dignified  
55 death. "Nursing practice" includes, but is not limited to,  
56 administration, teaching, counseling, delegation and supervision  
57 of nursing, and execution of the medical regimen, including the  
58 administration of medications and treatments prescribed by any  
59 licensed or legally authorized physician, advanced practice  
60 registered nurse or dentist. The foregoing shall not be deemed to  
61 include acts of medical diagnosis or prescriptions of medical,  
62 therapeutic or corrective measures, except as may be set forth by  
63 rules and regulations promulgated and implemented by the  
64 Mississippi Board of Nursing.

65 \* \* \*

66 ( \* \* \*3) "Advanced nursing practice" means, in addition to  
67 the practice of professional nursing, the performance of  
68 advanced-level nursing approved by the board which, by virtue of  
69 graduate education and experience are appropriately performed by  
70 an advanced practice registered nurse. The advanced practice  
71 registered nurse may diagnose, treat and manage medical  
72 conditions. This may include prescriptive authority as identified  
73 by the board. \* \* \*

74 ( \* \* \*4) The "practice of nursing" by a licensed practical  
75 nurse means the performance for compensation of services requiring  
76 basic knowledge of the biological, physical, behavioral,  
77 psychological and sociological sciences and of nursing procedures



78 which do not require the substantial skill, judgment and knowledge  
79 required of a registered nurse. These services are performed  
80 under the direction of a registered nurse or a licensed physician  
81 or licensed dentist and utilize standardized procedures in the  
82 observation and care of the ill, injured and infirm; in the  
83 maintenance of health; in action to safeguard life and health; and  
84 in the administration of medications and treatments prescribed by  
85 any licensed physician \* \* \*, licensed dentist or an advanced  
86 practice registered nurse authorized by state law to prescribe.  
87 On a selected basis, and within safe limits, the role of the  
88 licensed practical nurse shall be expanded by the board under its  
89 rule-making authority to more complex procedures and settings  
90 commensurate with additional preparation and experience.

91 ( \* \* \*5) A "license" means an authorization to practice  
92 nursing as a registered nurse, an advanced practice registered  
93 nurse or a licensed practical nurse designated herein.

94 ( \* \* \*6) A "registered nurse" is a person who is licensed  
95 or holds the privilege to practice under the provisions of this  
96 article and who practices nursing as defined herein. "RN" is the  
97 abbreviation for the title of Registered Nurse.

98 ( \* \* \*7) A "licensed practical nurse" is a person who is  
99 licensed or holds the privilege to practice under this article and  
100 who practices practical nursing as defined herein. "LPN" is the  
101 abbreviation for the title of Licensed Practical Nurse.



102           (\* \* \*8) A "registered nurse in clinical practice" is one  
103 who functions in any health care delivery system which provides  
104 nursing services.

105           \* \* \*

106           (9)   "Collaboration" or "collaborate" means the act of  
107   communicating pertinent information or consulting with a licensed  
108   physician or other licensed health care provider with each  
109   provider contributing the provider's respective expertise to  
110   optimize the overall care delivered to the patient.

111           (\* \* \*10) An "advanced practice registered nurse" is a  
112 person who is licensed or holds the privilege to practice under  
113 this article as a professional nurse and who is \* \* \* licensed as  
114 an advanced practice registered nurse or specialized nursing  
115 practice and includes certified \* \* \* nurse midwives, certified  
116 registered nurse anesthetists, clinical nurse specialists and  
117 certified nurse practitioners. "APRN" is the abbreviation for the  
118 title of advanced practice registered nurse. As used in this  
119 subsection (10):

120           (a)   "Certified nurse midwife" means a registered nurse  
121 who holds certification as a certified nurse midwife by a  
122 nationally recognized certifying body approved by the board and is  
123 licensed by the board to engage in advanced practice nursing in  
124 this state. "CNM" is the abbreviation for the title of Certified  
125 Nurse Midwife \* \* \*.



145           (\* \* \*11) A "nurse educator" is a registered nurse who  
146   meets the criteria for faculty as set forth in a state-accredited  
147   program of nursing for registered nurses, or a state-approved  
148   program of nursing for licensed practical nurses, and who  
149   functions as a faculty member.



150           (\* \* \*12) A "consumer representative" is a person  
151 representing the interests of the general public, who may use  
152 services of a health agency or health professional organization or  
153 its members but who is neither a provider of health services, nor  
154 employed in the health services field, nor holds a vested interest  
155 in the provision of health services at any level, nor has an  
156 immediate family member who holds vested interests in the  
157 provision of health services at any level.

158           (\* \* \*13) "Privilege to practice" means the multistate  
159 licensure privilege to practice nursing in the state as described  
160 in the Nurse Licensure Compact provided for in Section 73-15-201.

161           (\* \* \*14) "Licensee" is a person who has been issued a  
162 license to practice nursing or advanced practice nursing in the  
163 state or who holds the privilege to practice nursing in the state.

164           **SECTION 3.** Section 73-15-20, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
165 amended as follows:

166           73-15-20. (1) **Advanced practice registered nurses.** Any  
167 nurse desiring to be \* \* \* licensed as an advanced practice  
168 registered nurse shall apply to the board and submit proof that he  
169 or she holds a current license \* \* \* as a registered nurse and  
170 that he or she meets one or more of the following requirements:

171           (a) Satisfactory completion of a formal post-basic  
172 educational program of at least one (1) academic year, the primary  
173 purpose of which is to prepare nurses for advanced or specialized  
174 practice.



175 (b) Certification by a board-approved certifying body.  
176 Such certification shall be required for initial state \* \* \*  
177 licensure and any \* \* \* license renewal as a certified registered  
178 nurse anesthetist, certified nurse practitioner, clinical nurse  
179 specialist or certified nurse midwife. The board may by rule  
180 provide for provisional or temporary state \* \* \* licensure of  
181 graduate \* \* \* advanced practice registered nurses for a period of  
182 time determined to be appropriate for preparing and passing the  
183 National Certification Examination. Those with provisional or  
184 temporary \* \* \* licenses must practice under the direct  
185 supervision of a licensed physician or \* \* \* an advanced practice  
186 registered nurse with at least five (5) years of experience.

187 (c) Graduation from a program leading to a master's or  
188 post-master's degree in a \* \* \* program of study preparing for one  
189 (1) of the described advanced practice registered nurse roles.

190 (2) **Rulemaking.** The board shall provide by rule the  
191 appropriate requirements for advanced practice registered nurses  
192 in the categories of certified registered nurse anesthetist,  
193 certified nurse midwife, clinical nurse specialist and \* \* \*  
194 certified nurse practitioner.

195 (3) **Collaboration relationship.** Except as otherwise  
196 authorized in subsection (4) of this section, an advanced practice  
197 registered nurse shall perform those functions authorized in this  
198 section within a collaborative/consultative relationship with a  
199 dentist or physician with an unrestricted license to practice



200 dentistry or medicine in this state and within an established  
201 protocol or practice guidelines, as appropriate, that is filed  
202 with the board upon license application, license renewal, after  
203 entering into a new collaborative/consultative relationship or  
204 making changes to the protocol or practice guidelines or practice  
205 site. The board shall review and approve the protocol to ensure  
206 compliance with applicable regulatory standards. The advanced  
207 practice registered nurse may not practice as an APRN if there is  
208 no collaborative/consultative relationship with a physician or  
209 dentist and a board-approved protocol or practice guidelines.

210        (4) **Collaboration relationship exceptions.** Certified nurse  
211 practitioners, certified nurse midwives and clinical nurse  
212 specialists licensed to practice advanced practice nursing in this  
213 state, who have completed three thousand six hundred (3,600)  
214 practice hours, are exempt from maintaining a  
215 collaborative/consultative relationship with a licensed physician  
216 or dentist as required by subsection (3) of this section.  
217 Certified nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives and  
218 clinical nurse specialists may apply practice hours completed  
219 before the effective date of this act to fulfill the three  
220 thousand six hundred (3,600) practice-hour requirement. Certified  
221 nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives and clinical nurse  
222 specialists who are exempt from the collaborative/consultative  
223 relationship shall consult with other health care providers and  
224 refer or transfer patients as appropriate.



225           ( \* \* \*5) **Renewal.** The board shall renew a license for an  
226 advanced practice registered nurse upon receipt of the renewal  
227 application, fees and any required protocol or practice  
228 guidelines. The board shall adopt rules establishing procedures  
229 for license renewals. The board shall by rule prescribe  
230 continuing education requirements for advanced practice registered  
231 nurses \* \* \* as a condition for renewal of \* \* \* licensure.

232           ( \* \* \*6) **Reinstatement.** Advanced practice registered  
233 nurses may reinstate a lapsed privilege to practice upon  
234 submitting documentation of a current active license to practice  
235 professional nursing, a reinstatement application and fee, \* \* \*  
236 any required protocol or practice guidelines, documentation of  
237 current certification as an advanced practice registered nurse in  
238 a designated area of practice by a national certification  
239 organization recognized by the board and documentation of at least  
240 forty (40) hours of continuing education related to the advanced  
241 clinical practice of the advanced practice registered nurse \* \* \*  
242 within the previous two-year period. The board shall adopt rules  
243 establishing the procedure for reinstatement.

244           ( \* \* \*7) **Changes in status.** For those subject to  
245 subsection (3) of this section, the advanced practice registered  
246 nurse shall notify the board immediately regarding changes in the  
247 collaborative/consultative relationship with a licensed physician  
248 or dentist. If changes leave the advanced practice registered  
249 nurse without a board-approved collaborative/consultative



250 relationship with a physician or dentist, the advanced practice  
251 registered nurse may not practice as an advanced practice  
252 registered nurse.

253 ( \* \* \*8) **Practice requirements.** The advanced practice  
254 registered nurse shall practice as follows:

255 (a) According to standards and guidelines of their  
256 respective professional organization and the National  
257 Certification Organization.

258 (b) For those subject to subsection (3) of this  
259 section, in a collaborative/consultative relationship with a  
260 licensed physician or dentist whose practice is compatible, but  
261 need not be identical, with that of the advanced practice  
262 registered nurse \* \* \*. Certified registered nurse anesthetists  
263 may collaborate/consult with licensed dentists. The advanced  
264 practice registered nurse must be able to communicate reliably  
265 with a collaborating/consulting physician or dentist while  
266 practicing.

267 (c) For those subject to subsection (3) of this  
268 section, according to a board-approved protocol or practice  
269 guidelines, except as otherwise authorized in subsection (3) of  
270 this section.

271 (d) Advanced practice registered nurses practicing as  
272 certified registered nurse anesthetists must practice according to  
273 board-approved practice guidelines that address pre-anesthesia  
274 preparation and evaluation; anesthesia induction, maintenance, and



275 emergence; post-anesthesia care; peri-anesthetic and clinical  
276 support functions.

277 (e) For those subject to subsection (3) of this  
278 section, advanced practice registered nurses practicing in other  
279 specialty areas must practice according to a board-approved  
280 protocol that has been mutually agreed upon by the \* \* \* advanced  
281 practice registered nurse and the collaborating/consulting  
282 licensed physician or dentist whose practice or prescriptive  
283 authority is not limited as a result of voluntary surrender or  
284 legal/regulatory order.

285 (f) For those subject to subsection (3) of this  
286 section, each required collaborative/consultative relationship  
287 shall include and implement a formal quality assurance/quality  
288 improvement program which shall be maintained on site and shall be  
289 available for inspection by representatives of the board. This  
290 quality assurance/quality improvement program must be sufficient  
291 to provide a valid evaluation of the practice and be a valid basis  
292 for change, if any.

293 (g) \* \* \* Advanced practice registered nurses may not  
294 write prescriptions for, dispense or order the use of or  
295 administration of any schedule of controlled substances except as  
296 contained in this chapter.

297 (\* \* \*<sup>9</sup>) **Prescribing controlled substances and medications.**  
298 Certified nurse midwives, clinical nurse specialists and certified  
299 nurse practitioners may apply for controlled substance



300 prescriptive authority after completing a board-approved  
301 educational program. Certified nurse midwives, clinical nurse  
302 specialists and certified nurse practitioners who have completed  
303 the program and received prescription authority from the board may  
304 prescribe Schedules II-V. The words "administer," "controlled  
305 substances" and "ultimate user," shall have the same meaning as  
306 set forth in Section 41-29-105, unless the context otherwise  
307 requires. The board shall promulgate rules governing prescribing  
308 of controlled substances, including distribution, record keeping,  
309 drug maintenance, labeling and distribution requirements and  
310 prescription guidelines for controlled substances and all  
311 medications. Prescribing any controlled substance in violation of  
312 the rules promulgated by the board shall constitute a violation of  
313 Section 73-15-29(1)(f), (k) and (l) and shall be grounds for  
314 disciplinary action. The prescribing, administering or  
315 distributing of any legend drug or other medication in violation  
316 of the rules promulgated by the board shall constitute a violation  
317 of Section 73-15-29(1)(f), (k) and (l) and shall be grounds for  
318 disciplinary action.

319       **SECTION 4.** Section 73-15-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
320 amended as follows:

321       73-15-29. (1) The board shall have power to revoke, suspend  
322 or refuse to renew any license issued by the board, or to revoke  
323 or suspend any privilege to practice, or to deny an application  
324 for a license, or to fine, place on probation and/or discipline a



325 licensee, in any manner specified in this article, upon proof that  
326 such person:

327 (a) Has committed fraud or deceit in securing or  
328 attempting to secure such license;

329 (b) Has been convicted of a felony, or a crime  
330 involving moral turpitude or has had accepted by a court a plea of  
331 nolo contendere to a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude  
332 (a certified copy of the judgment of the court of competent  
333 jurisdiction of such conviction or pleas shall be *prima facie*  
334 evidence of such conviction);

335 (c) Has negligently or willfully acted in a manner  
336 inconsistent with the health or safety of the persons under the  
337 licensee's care;

338 (d) Has had a license or privilege to practice as a  
339 registered nurse, an advanced practice registered nurse or a  
340 licensed practical nurse suspended or revoked in any jurisdiction,  
341 has voluntarily surrendered such license or privilege to practice  
342 in any jurisdiction, has been placed on probation as a registered  
343 nurse, an advanced practice registered nurse or licensed practical  
344 nurse in any jurisdiction or has been placed under a disciplinary  
345 order(s) in any manner as a registered nurse, an advanced practice  
346 registered nurse or licensed practical nurse in any jurisdiction,  
347 (a certified copy of the order of suspension, revocation,  
348 probation or disciplinary action shall be *prima facie* evidence of  
349 such action);



350 (e) Has negligently or willfully practiced nursing in a  
351 manner that fails to meet generally accepted standards of such  
352 nursing practice;

353 (f) Has negligently or willfully violated any order,  
354 rule or regulation of the board pertaining to nursing practice or  
355 licensure;

356 (g) Has falsified or in a repeatedly negligent manner  
357 made incorrect entries or failed to make essential entries on  
358 records;

359 (h) Is addicted to or dependent on alcohol or other  
360 habit-forming drugs or is a habitual user of narcotics,  
361 barbiturates, amphetamines, hallucinogens, or other drugs having  
362 similar effect, or has misappropriated any medication;

363 (i) Has a physical, mental or emotional condition that  
364 renders the licensee unable to perform nursing services or duties  
365 with reasonable skill and safety;

366 (j) Has engaged in any other conduct, whether of the  
367 same or of a different character from that specified in this  
368 article, that would constitute a crime as defined in Title 97 of  
369 the Mississippi Code of 1972, as now or hereafter amended, and  
370 that relates to such person's employment as a registered nurse, an  
371 advanced practice registered nurse or licensed practical nurse;

372 (k) Engages in conduct likely to deceive, defraud or  
373 harm the public;



(1) Engages in any unprofessional conduct as identified by the board in its rules;

(m) Has violated any provision of this article;

(n) Violation(s) of the provisions of Sections 41-121-1  
-121-9 relating to deceptive advertisement by health  
practitioners. This paragraph shall stand repealed on July  
1, 1985.

(o) Violation(s) of any provision of Title 41, Chapter 141, Mississippi Code of 1972.

(2) When the board finds any person unqualified because of  
of the grounds set forth in subsection (1) of this section, i  
nter an order imposing one or more of the following  
ties:

(a) Denying application for a license or other authorization to practice nursing, advanced nursing practice or practical nursing;

(b) Administering a reprimand;

(c) Suspending or restricting the license or other authorization to practice as a registered nurse, an advanced practice registered nurse or licensed practical nurse for up to two (2) years without review;

(d) Revoking the license or other authorization to practice nursing, advanced nursing practice or practical nursing;

(e) Requiring the disciplinee to submit to care, counseling or treatment by persons and/or agencies approved



399 designated by the board as a condition for initial, continued or  
400 renewed licensure or other authorization to practice nursing,  
401 advanced nursing practice or practical nursing;

402 (f) Requiring the disciplinee to participate in a  
403 program of education prescribed by the board as a condition for  
404 initial, continued or renewed licensure or other authorization to  
405 practice;

406 (g) Requiring the disciplinee to practice under the  
407 supervision of a registered nurse or an advanced practice  
408 registered nurse for a specified period of time; or

409 (h) Imposing a fine not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars  
410 (\$500.00).

411 (3) In addition to the grounds specified in subsection (1)  
412 of this section, the board shall be authorized to suspend the  
413 license or privilege to practice of any licensee for being out of  
414 compliance with an order for support, as defined in Section  
415 93-11-153. The procedure for suspension of a license or privilege  
416 to practice for being out of compliance with an order for support,  
417 and the procedure for the reissuance or reinstatement of a license  
418 or privilege to practice suspended for that purpose, and the  
419 payment of any fees for the reissuance or reinstatement of a  
420 license or privilege to practice suspended for that purpose, shall  
421 be governed by Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163, as the case may be.  
422 If there is any conflict between any provision of Section  
423 93-11-157 or 93-11-163 and any provision of this article, the



424 provisions of Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163, as the case may be,  
425 shall control.

426 (4) If the public health, safety or welfare imperatively  
427 requires emergency action and the board incorporates a finding to  
428 that effect in an order, the board may order summary suspension of  
429 a license pending proceedings for revocation or other action.  
430 These proceedings shall be promptly instituted and determined by  
431 the board.

432 (5) The board may establish by rule an alternative to  
433 discipline program for licensees who have an impairment as a  
434 result of substance abuse or a mental health condition, which  
435 program shall include at least the following components:

436 (a) Participation in the program is voluntary with the  
437 licensee, and the licensee must enter the program before the board  
438 holds a disciplinary action hearing regarding the licensee;

439 (b) The full cost of participation in the program,  
440 including the cost of any care, counseling, treatment and/or  
441 education received by the licensee, shall be borne by the  
442 licensee;

443 (c) All of the procedures and records regarding the  
444 licensee's participation in the program shall be confidential,  
445 shall not be disclosed and shall be exempt from the provisions of  
446 the Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983; and

447 (d) A licensee may not participate in the program more  
448 often than one (1) time during any period of five (5) years or  
449 such longer period as set by the board.

450 (6) A nurse practitioner who provides a written  
451 certification as authorized under the Mississippi Medical Cannabis  
452 Act and in compliance with rules and regulations adopted  
453 thereunder shall not be subject to any disciplinary action under  
454 this section solely due to providing the written certification.

455           **SECTION 5.** Section 41-21-131, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
456 amended as follows:

457 41-21-131. As used in Sections 41-21-131 through 41-21-143,  
458 the following terms shall have the meanings as defined in this  
459 section:

460 (a) "Crisis Intervention Team" means a community  
461 partnership among a law enforcement agency, a community mental  
462 health center, a hospital, other mental health providers,  
463 consumers and family members of consumers.

464 (b) "Participating partner" means a law enforcement  
465 agency, a community mental health center or a hospital that has  
466 each entered into collaborative agreements needed to implement a  
467 Crisis Intervention Team.

468 (c) "Catchment area" means a geographical area in which  
469 a Crisis Intervention Team operates and is defined by the  
470 jurisdictional boundaries of the law enforcement agency that is  
471 the participating partner.



472 (d) "Crisis Intervention Team officer" or "CIT officer"  
473 means a law enforcement officer who is authorized to make arrests  
474 under Section 99-3-1 and who is trained and certified in crisis  
475 intervention and who is working for a law enforcement agency that  
476 is a participating partner in a Crisis Intervention Team.

477 (e) "Substantial likelihood of bodily harm" means that:

478 (i) The person has threatened or attempted suicide

479 or to inflict serious bodily harm to himself; or

480 (ii) The person has threatened or attempted

481 homicide or other violent behavior; or

482 (iii) The person has placed others in reasonable

483 fear of violent behavior and serious physical harm to them; or

484 (iv) The person is unable to avoid severe

485 impairment or injury from specific risks; and

486 (v) There is substantial likelihood that serious

487 harm will occur unless the person is placed under emergency

488 treatment.

489 (f) "Single point of entry" means a specific hospital  
490 that is the participating partner in a Crisis Intervention Team  
491 and that has agreed to provide psychiatric emergency services and  
492 triage and referral services.

493 (g) "Psychiatric emergency services" means services  
494 designed to reduce the acute psychiatric symptoms of a person who  
495 is mentally ill or a person who has an impairment caused by drugs



496 or alcohol and, when possible, to stabilize that person so that  
497 continuing treatment can be provided in the local community.

498 (h) "Triage and referral services" means services  
499 designed to provide evaluation of a person with mental illness or  
500 a person who has an impairment caused by drugs or alcohol in order  
501 to direct that person to a mental health facility or other mental  
502 health provider that can provide appropriate treatment.

503 (i) "Comprehensive psychiatric emergency service" means  
504 a specialized psychiatric service operated by the single point of  
505 entry and located in or near the hospital emergency department  
506 that can provide psychiatric emergency services for a period of  
507 time greater than can be provided in the hospital emergency  
508 department.

509 (j) "Extended observation bed" means a hospital bed  
510 that is used by a comprehensive psychiatric emergency service and  
511 is licensed by the State Department of Health for that purpose.

512 (k) "Psychiatric nurse practitioner" means a registered  
513 nurse who has completed the educational requirements specified by  
514 the State Board of Nursing, has successfully passed either the  
515 adult or family psychiatric nurse practitioner examination and is  
516 licensed by the State Board of Nursing \* \* \*.

517 (l) "Psychiatric physician assistant" means a physician  
518 assistant who has completed the educational requirements and  
519 passed the certification examination as specified in Section  
520 73-26-3, is licensed by the State Board of Medical Licensure, has

521 had at least one (1) year of practice as a physician assistant  
522 employed by a community mental health center, and is working under  
523 the supervision of a physician at a single point of entry.

524         **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
525 and after July 1, 2025.

