

By: Senator(s) Blackwell

To: Public Health and
Welfare

SENATE BILL NO. 2673

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 73-15-9,
7 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE THE COMPOSITION OF THE
8 MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF NURSING TO INCLUDE A CERTIFIED REGISTERED
9 NURSE ANESTHETIST AS A MEMBER; TO AMEND SECTION 73-15-20,
10 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE CERTAIN PROVISIONS RELATING TO
11 THE PRACTICE OF ADVANCED NURSING PRACTICE NURSES; TO PROVIDE THAT
12 CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETISTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED NOT
13 LESS THAN 8,000 CLINICAL PRACTICE HOURS ARE EXEMPT FROM
14 MAINTAINING A COLLABORATIVE/CONSULTATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH A
15 LICENSED PHYSICIAN OR DENTIST; TO PROVIDE THAT CERTIFIED
16 REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETISTS MAY APPLY HOURS WORKED BEFORE THE
17 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT TO FULFILL THE CLINICAL PRACTICE HOUR
18 REQUIREMENT; TO CONFORM CERTAIN PROVISIONS WITH THE MISSISSIPPI
19 MEDICAL CANNABIS ACT; TO AMEND SECTION 73-15-29, MISSISSIPPI CODE
20 OF 1972, TO INCLUDE ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES IN THE
21 PROVISIONS RELATING TO GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS AGAINST
22 NURSES; TO AMEND SECTION 41-21-131, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
23 CONFORM TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

47 73-15-5. (1) "Board" means the Mississippi Board of
48 Nursing.

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



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

67 * * *

68 (* * *3) "Advanced * * * practice registered nursing"
69 means, in addition to the practice of professional nursing, the
70 performance of advanced-level nursing approved by the board which,
71 by virtue of graduate education and experience are appropriately
72 performed by an advanced practice registered nurse. The advanced
73 practice registered nurse may diagnose, treat and manage medical
74 conditions. This may include prescriptive authority as identified
75 by the board. Except as otherwise authorized in Section
76 73-15-20(3), advanced practice registered nurses must practice in
77 a collaborative/consultative relationship with a physician or
78 dentist with an unrestricted license to practice in the State of



79 Mississippi and advanced nursing must be performed within the
80 framework of a standing protocol or practice guidelines, as
81 appropriate.

82 (* * *4) The "practice of nursing" by a licensed practical
83 nurse means the performance for compensation of services requiring
84 basic knowledge of the biological, physical, behavioral,
85 psychological and sociological sciences and of nursing procedures
86 which do not require the substantial skill, judgment and knowledge
87 required of a registered nurse. These services are performed
88 under the direction of a registered nurse or a licensed physician
89 or licensed dentist and utilize standardized procedures in the
90 observation and care of the ill, injured and infirm; in the
91 maintenance of health; in action to safeguard life and health; and
92 in the administration of medications and treatments prescribed by
93 any licensed physician * * *1 licensed dentist or advanced
94 practice registered nurse authorized by state law to prescribe.
95 On a selected basis, and within safe limits, the role of the
96 licensed practical nurse shall be expanded by the board under its
97 rule-making authority to more complex procedures and settings
98 commensurate with additional preparation and experience.

99 (* * *5) A "license" means an authorization to practice
100 nursing as a registered nurse, an advanced practice registered
101 nurse or a licensed practical nurse designated herein.

102 (* * *6) A "registered nurse" is a person who is licensed
103 or holds the privilege to practice under the provisions of this



104 article and who practices nursing as defined herein. "RN" is the
105 abbreviation for the title of Registered Nurse.

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

110 (* * *8) A "registered nurse in clinical practice" is one
111 who functions in any health care delivery system which provides
112 nursing services.

113 * * *

114 (9) "Collaboration" or "collaborate" means the act of
115 communicating pertinent information or consulting with a licensed
116 physician or other licensed health care provider with each
117 provider contributing the provider's respective expertise to
118 optimize the overall care delivered to the patient.

119 (* * *10) An "advanced practice registered nurse" is a
120 person who is licensed or holds the privilege to practice under
121 this article as a professional nurse and who is * * * licensed as
122 an advanced practice registered nurse or specialized nursing
123 practice and includes certified registered nurse midwives,
124 certified registered nurse anesthetists and certified nurse
125 practitioners. "APRN" is the abbreviation for the title of
126 advanced practice registered nurse. As used in this subsection
127 (10):

128 (a) "Certified registered nurse midwife" means a
129 registered nurse who holds certification as a certified registered
130 nurse midwife by a nationally recognized certifying body approved
131 by the board and is licensed by the board to engage in advanced
132 practice nursing in this state. "CNM" is the abbreviation for the
133 title of Certified Nurse Midwife * * *.

134 (b) "Certified registered nurse anesthetist" means a
135 registered nurse who holds certification as a certified registered
136 nurse anesthetist by a nationally recognized certifying body
137 approved by the board and is licensed by the board to engage in
138 advanced practice nursing in this state. "CRNA" is the
139 abbreviation for the title of Certified Registered Nurse
140 Anesthetist.

141 (c) "Certified nurse practitioner" means a registered
142 nurse who holds certification as a certified nurse practitioner by
143 a nationally recognized certifying body approved by the board and
144 is licensed by the board to engage in advanced practice nursing in
145 this state. "CNP" is the abbreviation for the title of Certified
146 Nurse Practitioner.

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



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

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

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

166 (15) "Clinical practice hours" include, but are not limited
167 to: clinical practice hours completed in an APRN program, CRNA
168 critical care nursing hours and practice hours completed as an
169 authorized APRN in this state or any other state.

170 (16) "Critical care nursing hours" means any nursing hours
171 received by a CRNA in a critical care setting required as a
172 prerequisite for admission to a Nurse Anesthesia program.

173 **SECTION 3.** Section 73-15-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
174 amended as follows:

175 73-15-9. (1) There is * * * created a board to be known as
176 the Mississippi Board of Nursing, composed of thirteen (13)



177 members, two (2) of whom shall be nurse educators; three (3) of
178 whom shall be registered nurses in clinical practice, two (2) to
179 have as basic nursing preparation an associate degree or diploma
180 and one (1) to have as basic nursing preparation a baccalaureate
181 degree; one (1) of whom shall be a registered nurse at large; one
182 (1) of whom shall be a registered nurse practitioner; * * * three
183 (3) of whom shall be licensed practical nurses; one (1) of whom
184 shall be a certified registered nurse anesthetist; one (1) of whom
185 shall be a licensed physician who shall always be a member of the
186 State Board of Medical Licensure; and one (1) of whom shall
187 represent consumers of health services. There shall be at least
188 one (1) board member from each congressional district in the
189 state; * * * however, * * * the physician member, the consumer
190 representative member and one (1) registered nurse member shall be
191 at large always.

192 (2) Members of the Mississippi Board of Nursing, excepting
193 the member of the State Board of Medical Licensure, shall be
194 appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the
195 Senate, from lists of nominees submitted by any Mississippi
196 registered nurse organization and/or association chartered by the
197 State of Mississippi whose board of directors is elected by the
198 membership and whose membership includes registered nurses
199 statewide, for the nomination of registered nurses, and by the
200 Mississippi Federation of Licensed Practical Nurses and the
201 Mississippi Licensed Practical Nurses' Association for the



202 nomination of a licensed practical nurse. Nominations submitted
203 by any such registered nurse organization or association to fill
204 vacancies on the board shall be made and voted on by registered
205 nurses only. Each list of nominees shall contain a minimum of
206 three (3) names for each vacancy to be filled. The list of names
207 shall be submitted at least thirty (30) days before the expiration
208 of the term for each position. If such list is not submitted, the
209 Governor is authorized to make an appointment from the group
210 affected and without nominations. Appointments made to fill
211 vacancies for unexpired terms shall be for the duration of such
212 terms and until a successor is duly appointed.

213 (3) Members of the board shall be appointed in staggered
214 terms for four (4) years or until a successor shall be duly
215 qualified. No member may serve more than two (2) consecutive full
216 terms. Members of the board serving on July 1, 1988, shall
217 continue to serve for their appointed terms.

218 (4) Vacancies occurring by reason of resignation, death or
219 otherwise shall be filled by appointment of the Governor upon
220 nominations from a list of nominees from the affected group to be
221 submitted within not more than thirty (30) days after such a
222 vacancy occurs. In the absence of such list, the Governor is
223 authorized to fill such vacancy in accordance with the provisions
224 for making full-term appointments. All vacancy appointments shall
225 be for the unexpired terms.



226 (5) Any member may be removed from the board by the Governor
227 after a hearing by the board and provided such removal is
228 recommended by the executive committee of the affected group.

229 **SECTION 4.** Section 73-15-20, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
230 amended as follows:

231 73-15-20. (1) **Advanced practice registered nurses.** Any
232 nurse desiring to be * * * licensed as an advanced practice
233 registered nurse shall apply to the board and submit proof that he
234 or she holds a current license * * * as a registered nurse and
235 that he or she meets one or more of the following requirements:

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

240 (b) Certification by a board-approved certifying body.
241 Such certification shall be required for initial state * * *
242 licensure and any * * * license renewal as a certified registered
243 nurse anesthetist, certified nurse practitioner or certified
244 registered nurse midwife. The board may by rule provide for
245 provisional or temporary state * * * licensure of graduate * * *
246 advanced practice registered nurses for a period of time
247 determined to be appropriate for preparing and passing the
248 National Certification Examination. Those with provisional or
249 temporary * * * licenses must practice under the direct



250 supervision of a licensed physician or * * * an advanced practice
251 registered nurse with at least five (5) years of experience.

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

255 (2) **Rulemaking.** The board shall provide by rule the
256 appropriate requirements for advanced practice registered nurses
257 in the categories of certified registered nurse anesthetist,
258 certified registered nurse midwife and * * * certified nurse
259 practitioner.

260 (3) **Collaboration.** (a) Except as otherwise authorized in
261 paragraph (b) of this subsection (3), an advanced practice
262 registered nurse shall perform those functions authorized in this
263 section within a collaborative/consultative relationship with a
264 dentist or physician with an unrestricted license to practice
265 dentistry or medicine in this state and within an established
266 protocol or practice guidelines, as appropriate, that is filed
267 with the board upon license application, license renewal, after
268 entering into a new collaborative/consultative relationship or
269 making changes to the protocol or practice guidelines or practice
270 site. The board shall review and approve the protocol to ensure
271 compliance with applicable regulatory standards. * * *

272 (b) Certified registered nurse anesthetists who have
273 completed not less than eight thousand (8,000) clinical practice
274 hours are exempt from maintaining a collaborative/consultative



275 relationship with a licensed physician or dentist as required by
276 paragraph (a) of this subsection (3).

277 (c) Certified registered nurse anesthetists may apply
278 hours worked before July 1, 2025, to fulfill the clinical practice
279 hour requirements under paragraph (b) of this subsection (3).

280 (4) **Renewal.** The board shall renew a license for an
281 advanced practice registered nurse upon receipt of the renewal
282 application, fees and any required protocol or practice
283 guidelines. The board shall adopt rules establishing procedures
284 for license renewals. The board shall by rule prescribe
285 continuing education requirements for advanced practice registered
286 nurses * * * as a condition for renewal of * * * licensure.

287 (5) **Reinstatement.** Advanced practice registered nurses may
288 reinstate a lapsed privilege to practice upon submitting
289 documentation of a current active license to practice professional
290 nursing, a reinstatement application and fee, * * * any required
291 protocol or practice guidelines, documentation of current
292 certification as an advanced practice registered nurse in a
293 designated area of practice by a national certification
294 organization recognized by the board and documentation of at least
295 forty (40) hours of continuing education related to the advanced
296 clinical practice of the * * * advanced practice registered nurse
297 within the previous two-year period. The board shall adopt rules
298 establishing the procedure for reinstatement.



299 (6) **Changes in status.** * * * An advanced practice
300 registered nurse who is required to have a
301 collaborative/consultative relationship with a licensed physician
302 or dentist shall notify the board immediately regarding changes in
303 the collaborative/consultative relationship * * *. If changes
304 leave the advanced practice registered nurse without a
305 board-approved collaborative/consultative relationship with a
306 physician or dentist, the advanced practice registered nurse may
307 not practice as an advanced practice registered nurse.

308 (7) **Practice requirements.** The advanced practice registered
309 nurse shall practice as follows:

310 (a) According to standards and guidelines of their
311 respective professional organization and the National
312 Certification Organization.



323 or dentist shall collaborate with other health care providers and
324 refer or transfer patients as appropriate.

325 (c) According to a board-approved protocol or practice
326 guidelines, except as otherwise authorized in subsection (3) of
327 this section.

328 (d) Advanced practice registered nurses practicing as
329 certified registered nurse anesthetists must practice according to
330 board-approved practice guidelines that address pre-anesthesia
331 preparation and evaluation; anesthesia induction, maintenance, and
332 emergence; post-anesthesia care; peri-anesthetic * * *, clinical
333 support functions, and additional advanced nursing functions
334 outside of the peri-operative area as described by their national
335 professional nursing organization.

336 (e) Except as otherwise authorized in subsection (3) of
337 this section, advanced practice registered nurses practicing in
338 other specialty areas must practice according to a board-approved
339 protocol that has been mutually agreed upon by the nurse
340 practitioner and a Mississippi licensed physician or dentist whose
341 practice or prescriptive authority is not limited as a result of
342 voluntary surrender or legal/regulatory order.

343 (f) Each required collaborative/consultative
344 relationship shall include and implement a formal quality
345 assurance/quality improvement program which shall be maintained on
346 site and shall be available for inspection by representatives of
347 the board. This quality assurance/quality improvement program



348 must be sufficient to provide a valid evaluation of the practice
349 and be a valid basis for change, if any.

350 (g) * * * Advanced practice registered nurses may not
351 write prescriptions for, dispense or order the use of or
352 administration of any schedule of controlled substances except as
353 contained in this chapter.

354 (8) **Prescribing controlled substances and medications. * * ***
355 Advanced practice registered nurses may apply for controlled
356 substance prescriptive authority after completing a board-approved
357 educational program. * * * Advanced practice registered nurses
358 who have completed the program and received prescription authority
359 from the board may prescribe Schedules II-V. The words
360 "administer," "controlled substances" and "ultimate user," shall
361 have the same meaning as set forth in Section 41-29-105, unless
362 the context otherwise requires. The board shall promulgate rules
363 governing prescribing of controlled substances, including
364 distribution, record keeping, drug maintenance, labeling and
365 distribution requirements and prescription guidelines for
366 controlled substances and all medications. Prescribing any
367 controlled substance in violation of the rules promulgated by the
368 board shall constitute a violation of Section 73-15-29(1) (f), (k)
369 and (l) and shall be grounds for disciplinary action. The
370 prescribing, administering or distributing of any legend drug or
371 other medication in violation of the rules promulgated by the
372 board shall constitute a violation of Section 73-15-29(1) (f), (k)



373 and (1) and shall be grounds for disciplinary action. Advanced
374 practice registered nurses may issue written certifications for
375 medical cannabis in accordance with the provisions of the
376 Mississippi Medical Cannabis Act.

377 **SECTION 5.** Section 73-15-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
378 amended as follows:

379 73-15-29. (1) The board shall have power to revoke, suspend
380 or refuse to renew any license issued by the board, or to revoke
381 or suspend any privilege to practice, or to deny an application
382 for a license, or to fine, place on probation and/or discipline a
383 licensee, in any manner specified in this article, upon proof that
384 such person:

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

387 (b) Has been convicted of a felony, or a crime
388 involving moral turpitude or has had accepted by a court a plea of
389 nolo contendere to a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude
390 (a certified copy of the judgment of the court of competent
391 jurisdiction of such conviction or pleas shall be *prima facie*
392 evidence of such conviction);

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

396 (d) Has had a license or privilege to practice as a
397 registered nurse, an advanced practice registered nurse or a



398 licensed practical nurse suspended or revoked in any jurisdiction,
399 has voluntarily surrendered such license or privilege to practice
400 in any jurisdiction, has been placed on probation as a registered
401 nurse, an advanced practice registered nurse or a licensed
402 practical nurse in any jurisdiction or has been placed under a
403 disciplinary order(s) in any manner as a registered nurse, an
404 advanced practice registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse
405 in any jurisdiction, (a certified copy of the order of suspension,
406 revocation, probation or disciplinary action shall be *prima facie*
407 evidence of such action);

408 (e) Has negligently or willfully practiced nursing in a
409 manner that fails to meet generally accepted standards of such
410 nursing practice;

411 (f) Has negligently or willfully violated any order,
412 rule or regulation of the board pertaining to nursing practice or
413 licensure;

414 (g) Has falsified or in a repeatedly negligent manner
415 made incorrect entries or failed to make essential entries on
416 records;

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



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

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

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

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

434 (m) Has violated any provision of this article;

435 (n) Violation(s) of the provisions of Sections 41-121-1
436 through 41-121-9 relating to deceptive advertisement by health
437 care practitioners. This paragraph shall stand repealed on July
438 1, 2025; or

439 (o) Violation(s) of any provision of Title 41, Chapter
440 141, Mississippi Code of 1972.

441 (2) When the board finds any person unqualified because of
442 any of the grounds set forth in subsection (1) of this section, it
443 may enter an order imposing one or more of the following
444 penalties:



445 (a) Denying application for a license or other
446 authorization to practice nursing or practical nursing;
447 (b) Administering a reprimand;
448 (c) Suspending or restricting the license or other
449 authorization to practice as a registered nurse, an advanced
450 practice registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse for up to
451 two (2) years without review;
452 (d) Revoking the license or other authorization to
453 practice nursing, advanced practice registered nursing or
454 practical nursing;
455 (e) Requiring the disciplinee to submit to care,
456 counseling or treatment by persons and/or agencies approved or
457 designated by the board as a condition for initial, continued or
458 renewed licensure or other authorization to practice nursing,advanced
459 practice registered nursing or practical nursing;
460 (f) Requiring the disciplinee to participate in a
461 program of education prescribed by the board as a condition for
462 initial, continued or renewed licensure or other authorization to
463 practice;
464 (g) Requiring the disciplinee to practice under the
465 supervision of a registered nurse or an advanced practice
466 registered nurse for a specified period of time; or
467 (h) Imposing a fine not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars
468 (\$500.00).



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

484 (4) If the public health, safety or welfare imperatively
485 requires emergency action and the board incorporates a finding to
486 that effect in an order, the board may order summary suspension of
487 a license pending proceedings for revocation or other action.
488 These proceedings shall be promptly instituted and determined by
489 the board.

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



494 (a) Participation in the program is voluntary with the
495 licensee, and the licensee must enter the program before the board
496 holds a disciplinary action hearing regarding the licensee;

497 (b) The full cost of participation in the program,
498 including the cost of any care, counseling, treatment and/or
499 education received by the licensee, shall be borne by the
500 licensee;

501 (c) All of the procedures and records regarding the
502 licensee's participation in the program shall be confidential,
503 shall not be disclosed and shall be exempt from the provisions of
504 the Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983; and

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

508 (6) * * * An advance practice registered nurse who provides
509 a written certification as authorized under the Mississippi
510 Medical Cannabis Act and in compliance with rules and regulations
511 adopted thereunder shall not be subject to any disciplinary action
512 under this section solely due to providing the written
513 certification.

514 **SECTION 6.** Section 41-21-131, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
515 amended as follows:

516 41-21-131. As used in Sections 41-21-131 through 41-21-143,
517 the following terms shall have the meanings as defined in this
518 section:



519 (a) "Crisis Intervention Team" means a community
520 partnership among a law enforcement agency, a community mental
521 health center, a hospital, other mental health providers,
522 consumers and family members of consumers.

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

527 (c) "Catchment area" means a geographical area in which
528 a Crisis Intervention Team operates and is defined by the
529 jurisdictional boundaries of the law enforcement agency that is
530 the participating partner.

531 (d) "Crisis Intervention Team officer" or "CIT officer"
532 means a law enforcement officer who is authorized to make arrests
533 under Section 99-3-1 and who is trained and certified in crisis
534 intervention and who is working for a law enforcement agency that
535 is a participating partner in a Crisis Intervention Team.

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

537 (i) The person has threatened or attempted suicide

538 or to inflict serious bodily harm to himself; or

539 (ii) The person has threatened or attempted

540 homicide or other violent behavior; or

541 (iii) The person has placed others in reasonable

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

543 (iv) The person is unable to avoid severe
544 impairment or injury from specific risks; and
545 (v) There is substantial likelihood that serious
546 harm will occur unless the person is placed under emergency
547 treatment.

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

552 (g) "Psychiatric emergency services" means services
553 designed to reduce the acute psychiatric symptoms of a person who
554 is mentally ill or a person who has an impairment caused by drugs
555 or alcohol and, when possible, to stabilize that person so that
556 continuing treatment can be provided in the local community.



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

571 (k) "Psychiatric nurse practitioner" means a registered
572 nurse who has completed the educational requirements specified by
573 the State Board of Nursing, has successfully passed either the
574 adult or family psychiatric nurse practitioner examination and is
575 licensed by the State Board of Nursing * * *.

583 **SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
584 and after July 1, 2025.

