

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 \* \* \*, 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



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

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

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

\* \* \*

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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





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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

(b) Except as otherwise authorized in subsection (3) of this section, in a collaborative/consultative relationship with a licensed physician whose practice is compatible with that of the \* \* \* advanced practice registered nurse. However, certified registered nurse anesthetists may collaborate/consult with any physician or licensed \* \* \* dentist. The advanced practice registered nurse must be able to communicate reliably with a collaborating/consulting physician or dentist while practicing. Advanced practice registered nurses who are not required to have a collaborative/consultative relationship with a licensed physician



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

(d) Has had a license or privilege to practice as a 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;



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

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

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

(l) 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 through 41-121-9 relating to deceptive advertisement by health care practitioners. This paragraph shall stand repealed on July 1, 2025; or

(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 any of the grounds set forth in subsection (1) of this section, it may enter an order imposing one or more of the following 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,  
459 advanced 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.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



(iv) The person is unable to avoid severe impairment or injury from specific risks; and

(v) There is substantial likelihood that serious harm will occur unless the person is placed under emergency treatment.

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

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

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

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



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 \* \* \*.

576           (l) "Psychiatric physician assistant" means a physician  
577 assistant who has completed the educational requirements and  
578 passed the certification examination as specified in Section  
579 73-26-3, is licensed by the State Board of Medical Licensure, has  
580 had at least one (1) year of practice as a physician assistant  
581 employed by a community mental health center, and is working under  
582 the supervision of a physician at a single point of entry.

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

