

By: Representatives Moody, Scott (80th)

To: Public Health and Welfare; Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1027

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 73-15-18, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO PROVIDE THAT THE NURSING WORKFORCE PROGRAM AND THE OFFICE OF  
3 NURSING WORKFORCE WILL ESTABLISH SYSTEMS TO ENSURE AN ADEQUATE  
4 SUPPLY OF NURSES TO MEET THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF THE CITIZENS OF  
5 MISSISSIPPI; TO PROVIDE THAT THE NURSING WORKFORCE PROGRAM AND THE  
6 OFFICE OF NURSING WORKFORCE WILL BE ESTABLISHED AND IMPLEMENTED  
7 ONLY IF SUFFICIENT FUNDS ARE APPROPRIATED TO OR OTHERWISE  
8 AVAILABLE TO THE BOARD OF NURSING FOR THAT PURPOSE; AND FOR  
9 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 SECTION 1. Section 73-15-18, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
12 amended as follows:

13 73-15-18. (1) The Mississippi Board of Nursing is  
14 designated as the state agency responsible for the administration  
15 and supervision of the Nursing Workforce \* \* \* Program as an  
16 educational curriculum in the State of Mississippi. It is the  
17 intent of the Legislature to develop a nursing workforce able to  
18 carry out the scope of service and leadership tasks required of  
19 the profession by promoting a strong educational infrastructure  
20 between nursing practice and nursing education.

21 (2) The Mississippi Board of Nursing is authorized to  
22 establish an Office of Nursing Workforce \* \* \* within the  
23 administrative framework of the board for the purpose of providing  
24 coordination and consultation to nursing education and practice.  
25 The Nursing Workforce \* \* \* Program shall encompass five (5)  
26 interdependent components:

27 (a) Develop and implement a state educational program  
28 directed toward nursing educators regarding health care delivery  
29 system changes resulting from managed care, case management and

30 capitated health finance systems and the impact these changes will  
31 have on curriculum and on the retraining needs of nurses.

32 (b) Determine the continuing education needs of the  
33 nursing workforce in an environment of restructuring from the  
34 hospital-bed-side setting to the home health and community  
35 practice settings, and implement such continuing education  
36 coursework through the university/college schools of nursing in  
37 the state and the community/junior college nursing programs in the  
38 state.

39 (c) Promote and coordinate through the schools of  
40 nursing opportunities for nurses prepared at the associate degree  
41 and bachelor degree levels to obtain higher degrees.

42 (d) Apply for and administer grants from public and  
43 private sources for the development of the Nursing Workforce \* \* \*  
44 Program prescribed in this section.

45 (e) Establish systems to ensure an adequate supply of  
46 nurses to meet the health care needs of the citizens of  
47 Mississippi. This will include, but is not limited to, gathering  
48 and quantifying dependable data on current nursing workforce  
49 capacities and forecasting future requirements. The Office of  
50 Nursing Workforce will report its findings annually to the  
51 Mississippi Legislature.

52 (3) Pursuant to the provisions of subsections (1) and (2),  
53 the Board of Nursing is authorized to provide for the services of  
54 an Office of Nursing Workforce \* \* \* Director and such other  
55 professional and nonprofessional staff as may be needed and as  
56 funds are available to the Board of Nursing to implement the  
57 Nursing Workforce \* \* \* Program prescribed in this section. It  
58 shall be the responsibility of such professional staff to  
59 coordinate efforts of the bachelor degree schools of nursing, the  
60 associate degree schools of nursing and other appropriate agencies  
61 in the State of Mississippi to implement the Nursing  
62 Workforce \* \* \* Program.

63           (4) The Board of Nursing shall appoint a Nursing  
64 Workforce \* \* \* Advisory Committee composed of health care  
65 professionals, health agency administrators, nursing educators and  
66 other appropriate individuals to provide technical advice to the  
67 Office of Nursing Workforce \* \* \* created in this section. The  
68 members of the committee shall be appointed by the Board of  
69 Nursing from a list of nominees submitted by appropriate nursing  
70 and health care organizations in the State of Mississippi. The  
71 members of the committee shall receive no compensation for their  
72 services, but may be reimbursed for actual travel expenses and  
73 mileage authorized by law for necessary committee business.

74           (5) All funds made available to the Board of Nursing for the  
75 purpose of nursing workforce \* \* \* shall be administered by the  
76 board office for that purpose. The Board of Nursing is authorized  
77 to enter into contract with any private person, organization or  
78 entity capable of contracting for the purpose of administering  
79 this section.

80           (6) The Nursing Workforce Program and the Office of Nursing  
81 Workforce provided for in this section will be established and  
82 implemented only if sufficient funds are appropriated to or  
83 otherwise available to the Board of Nursing for that purpose.

84           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
85 and after July 1, 2001.