

By: Representative Barnett (92nd)

To: Universities and
Colleges

HOUSE BILL NO. 1329

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-143-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REVISE THE LIST OF STATE HEALTH INSTITUTIONS IN WHICH A PERSON
3 MAY WORK TO REPAY A LOAN RECEIVED UNDER THE HEALTH CARE
4 PROFESSIONS' LOAN PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 37-143-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 37-143-13. (1) There is * * * established a health care
9 professions' loan program. It is the intent of the Legislature
10 that persons declaring an intention to work at certain state
11 health institutions as nurses, nurse practitioners, speech
12 pathologists, psychologists, occupational therapists and physical
13 therapists, shall be eligible for a loan for the purpose of
14 acquiring an education in such professions. The board of trustees
15 shall enter into contracts with applicants, providing that such
16 loans may be discharged by working as a health care professional
17 in a state health institution, as defined in this section, for a
18 period of time after graduation equal to the period of study
19 provided under the scholarship. Such contracts shall provide that
20 for each year of service, the appropriate portion of the
21 outstanding balance of principal and interest of such loan shall
22 be converted to interest-free scholarships and discharged.

23 (2) "State health institution" shall mean any of the
24 following: Any facility or program operated by the Department of
25 Mental Health; the State Board of Health; mental health/mental
26 retardation facilities under the administration of a regional
27 commission as established pursuant to Section 41-19-31 which are

28 certified by the Department of Mental Health; and health care
29 facilities under the Department of Corrections.

30 (3) The board of trustees shall establish rules and
31 regulations as it deems necessary and proper to carry out the
32 purposes and intent of this section.

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