

By: Representative Moody

To: Public Health and
WelfareHOUSE BILL NO. 906
(As Passed the House)

1 AN ACT TO REENACT SECTIONS 73-10-1 THROUGH 73-10-23,
2 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH IS THE MISSISSIPPI DIETETICS
3 PRACTICE ACT; TO AMEND REENACTED SECTION 73-10-21, MISSISSIPPI
4 CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT SERVICE AS A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC
5 HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE OF EITHER HOUSE OF THE MISSISSIPPI
6 LEGISLATURE SHALL MEET THE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR
7 RENEWAL OF A DIETETICS LICENSE; TO REPEAL SECTION 73-10-25, WHICH
8 PROVIDES THAT THE MISSISSIPPI DIETETICS PRACTICE ACT SHALL REPEAL
9 ON JULY 1, 2002; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** Section 73-10-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
12 reenacted as follows:

13 73-10-1. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the
14 Mississippi Dietetics Practice Act of 1986.

15 **SECTION 2.** Section 73-10-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
16 reenacted as follows:

17 73-10-3. (1) For the purposes of this chapter the following
18 terms shall have the meanings set forth herein:

19 (a) "Advisory council" means the Mississippi Council of
20 Advisors in Dietetics established in this chapter.

21 (b) "Board" means the Mississippi State Board of
22 Health.

23 (c) "Association" means the American Dietetic
24 Association (ADA).

25 (d) "Mississippi association" means the Mississippi
26 Dietetic Association, an affiliate of the American Dietetic
27 Association.

28 (e) "Commission on Dietetic Registration" (CDR) means
29 the Commission on Dietetic Registration that is a member of the
30 National Commission for Health Certifying Agencies.



31 (f) "Degree" means a degree received from a college or
32 university that was accredited through the Council on
33 Postsecondary Accreditation and the United States Department of
34 Education at the time the degree was conferred.

35 (g) "Registered dietitian" means a person registered by
36 the Commission on Dietetic Registration.

37 (h) "Licensed dietitian" means a person licensed under
38 this chapter.

39 (i) "Provisionally licensed dietitian" means a person
40 provisionally licensed under this chapter.

41 (j) "Dietetics practice" means the integration and
42 application of the principles derived from the sciences of
43 nutrition, biochemistry, food, physiology, management and
44 behavioral and social sciences to achieve and maintain people's
45 health. Dietetics practice includes, but is not limited to:

46 (i) Providing medical nutrition therapy.

47 (ii) Development, administration, evaluation and
48 consultation regarding nutritional care standards of quality in
49 food services and medical nutrition therapy.

50 (iii) Providing case management services.

51 (k) "Medical nutrition therapy" is a nutritional
52 diagnostic therapy and counseling services for the purpose of
53 disease management. It means the assessment of the nutritional
54 status of patients with a condition, illness or injury that
55 appropriately requires medical nutrition therapy as part of the
56 treatment. The assessment includes review and analysis of medical
57 and diet history, blood chemistry lab values and anthropometric
58 measurements to determine nutritional status and treatment
59 modalities.

60 Therapy ranges from diet modification and nutrition
61 counseling to administration of specialized nutrition therapies
62 such as intravenous medical nutritional products as determined
63 necessary to manage a condition or treat illness or injury.



64 (1) "Diet modification and nutrition counseling" means
65 intervention and advice in assisting individuals or groups in the
66 development of personal diet plans to achieve appropriate
67 nutritional intake. To develop the diet plan, the dietitian
68 integrates information from the nutritional assessment with
69 information on food and other sources of nutrients and meal
70 preparation consistent with cultural background and socioeconomic
71 status.

72 (m) "Specialized nutrition therapies" mean medical
73 foods, enteral nutrition delivered via tube, or parenteral
74 nutrition delivered by intravenous infusion.

75 (n) "Nutrition educator" shall mean one who
76 communicates scientific nutrition information to individuals
77 and/or groups and who provides information on food sources of
78 nutrients to meet normal nutrition need based on the most current
79 "Recommended Dietary Allowances" of the Food and Nutrition Board,
80 National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council.

81 (o) "Dietitian" means one engaged in dietetics
82 practice, medical nutrition therapy or nutrition education. The
83 terms dietitian or dietician are used interchangeably in this
84 chapter.

85 (p) "Direct, technical supervision" means the direct,
86 technical supervision by a licensed dietitian, as prescribed in
87 regulations by the board, of the dietetics practice or medical
88 nutrition therapy provided to an individual and/or group by a
89 provisionally licensed dietitian.

90 (q) "Department" means the Mississippi State Department
91 of Health.

92 (2) All other terms shall have their commonly ascribed
93 definitions unless some other meaning is clearly intended from its
94 context.

95 **SECTION 3.** Section 73-10-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
96 reenacted as follows:



73-10-5. Dietetics is the integration and application of principles derived from the sciences of nutrition, biochemistry, physiology, food, management and behavioral and social sciences to achieve and maintain peoples' health. Dietetics practice is the provision of services which include, but are not limited to:

(a) Providing medical nutrition therapy.

(b) Development, administration, evaluation and consultation regarding nutritional care standards of quality in food services and medical nutrition therapy.

(c) Providing case management services.

(d) Developing, implementing and managing nutrition care system.

SECTION 4. Section 73-10-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is reenacted as follows:

73-10-7. It shall be unlawful for any person, corporation or association to, in any manner, represent himself or itself as a dietitian or nutritionist, send out billings as providing services covered in Section 73-10-3(j), or use in connection with his or its name, the titles "dietitian," "dietician" or "nutritionist" or use the letters "LD," "LN" or any other facsimile thereof when he or she is not licensed in accordance with the provisions of this chapter or meets the exemptions in paragraph (c) of Section 73-10-13. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a dietitian registered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) shall have the right to use the title "Registered Dietitian" and the designation "R.D." Registered dietitians shall be licensed according to the provisions of this chapter to practice dietetics or provide medical nutrition therapy.

SECTION 5. Section 73-10-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is reenacted as follows:

73-10-9. (1) An applicant for a license as a dietitian shall file a written application on forms provided by the board,



showing to the satisfaction of the board that he or she meets the following requirement.

(2) Applicants shall provide evidence of current registration as a registered dietitian by the Commission on Dietetic Registration.

(3) Applicants shall pay a fee as established by the board.

(4) Each application or filing made under this section shall include the social security number(s) of the applicant in accordance with Section 93-11-64, Mississippi Code of 1972.

SECTION 6. Section 73-10-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is reenacted as follows:

73-10-11. (1) The board may issue a provisional license to any resident dietitian who presents evidence to the advisory council of the successful completion of the education and experience requirements of subsections (2) and (3) of this section for licensure. Such a provisional license may be issued to such a person before he or she has taken the examination to become a registered dietitian as given by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). A provisional license may be issued for a period not exceeding one (1) year and may be renewed from year to year not to exceed five (5) years.

(2) An applicant for provisional licensure as a dietitian shall present evidence satisfactory to the board of having received a baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate degree from a college or university accredited through the United States Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education, with a major in dietetics or an equivalent major course of study as approved by the board.

(3) An applicant for licensure as a dietitian shall submit to the board evidence of having successfully completed a board approved planned program of dietetics experience under the supervision of a licensed or registered dietician.



(4) A provisional license shall permit the holder to practice only under the direct technical supervision of a dietitian.

(5) A fee for a provisional license and for each renewal shall be established by the board.

SECTION 7. Section 73-10-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is reenacted as follows:

73-10-13. This chapter shall not be construed to affect or prevent:

(a) A student enrolled in an approved academic program in dietetics from engaging in the practice of dietetics, if such practice constitutes a part of a supervised course of study, and if the student is designated by a title which clearly indicates his or her status as a student or trainee.

(b) Any person fulfilling the experience requirements of Section 73-10-11(3) from engaging in the practice of dietetics under the supervision of a licensed or registered dietitian.

(c) A registered dietitian who is serving in the Armed Forces or the Public Health Service of the United States or is employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs from engaging in the practice of dietetics provided such practice is restricted to such service or employment.

(d) Any person providing dietetic services, including but not limited to dietetic technicians, dietetic assistants and dietary managers, from practicing dietetics while working under the direct technical supervision of a licensed dietitian.

(e) Persons licensed or registered to practice the health professions from engaging in the practice of dietetics when covered under the scope of practice of his or her profession, except that such persons may not use the title "dietitian" or "nutritionist."

(f) Persons who perform the activities and services of a nutrition educator in the employ of a federal, state, county or



194 municipal agency, or another political subdivision, or a chartered
195 elementary or secondary school or accredited degree-granting
196 educational institution insofar as such activities and services
197 are part of a salaried position.

198 (g) Federal, state, county or local government
199 employees involved with programs providing the services of a
200 nutrition educator that help to prevent disease and maintain good
201 nutritional health, including, but not limited to, the Cooperative
202 Extension Service, the Child Nutrition Program, and Project Head
203 Start.

204 (h) Individuals who do not hold themselves out to be
205 dietitians from marketing or distributing food products including
206 dietary supplements as defined by the Food and Drug Administration
207 or from engaging in the explanation and education of customers
208 regarding the use of such products.

209 (i) Any person from furnishing general nutrition
210 information as to the use of food, food materials or dietary
211 supplements, nor prevent in any way the free dissemination of
212 literature; provided, however, no such individual may call
213 themselves a dietitian unless they are licensed under this
214 chapter.

215 **SECTION 8.** Section 73-10-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
216 reenacted as follows:

217 73-10-15. (1) A nonresident dietitian may practice
218 dietetics in Mississippi for five (5) days per year with current
219 other state's licensure or with current registration with the
220 Commission on Dietetics Registration.

221 (2) The board may waive the prescribed examination for
222 licensure and grant a license to any person who shall present
223 proof of current licensure as a dietitian in another state, the
224 District of Columbia, or territory of the United States which
225 requires standards for licensure considered by the advisory
226 council to be greater than or equal to the requirements for



licensure of this chapter, if such state or territory extends reciprocity to licensees of the State of Mississippi.

SECTION 9. Section 73-10-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is reenacted as follows:

73-10-17. (1) There is established the Mississippi Council of Advisors in Dietetics under the jurisdiction of the Mississippi State Board of Health.

(2) The council shall be comprised of seven (7) members of whom five (5) shall be dietitians who have been engaged in the practice of dietetics for at least three (3) years immediately preceding their appointment. Members of the council shall be licensed to practice dietetics. The following areas of practice shall be represented by council members: administrative dietetics, clinical dietetics, dietetic education, community nutrition and consultation and private practice. The remaining two (2) members shall be a licensed member of the health professions and a member of the public with an interest in the rights of the consumers of health services.

(3) A person is eligible for appointment as a public member if the person or the person's spouse:

(a) Is not employed by and does not participate in the management of an agency or business entity that provides health care services or that sells, manufactures or distributes health care supplies or equipment; and

(b) Does not own, control or have a direct or indirect interest in more than ten percent (10%) of a business entity that provides health care services or that sells, manufactures or distributes health care supplies or equipment.

(4) Appointments to the advisory council shall be made without regard to race, creed, sex, religion or national origin of the appointees.

(5) The board shall, within sixty (60) days after passage of this chapter, appoint two (2) advisory council members for a term



of one (1) year, two (2) for a term of two (2) years, and three (3) for a term of three (3) years. Appointments made thereafter shall be for three-year terms, but no person shall be appointed to serve more than two (2) consecutive terms.

(6) Terms shall begin on the first day of the calendar year and end on the last day of the calendar year or until successors are appointed, except for the first appointed members who shall serve through the last calendar day of the year in which they are appointed before commencing the terms prescribed by this section.

(7) Not less than sixty (60) days before the end of each calendar year, the Mississippi Dietetic Association shall submit the names of at least two (2) persons for each dietitian vacancy and each of the health professional and public member appointments.

(8) In the event of a vacancy, the board shall, as soon as possible, appoint a person who shall fill the unexpired term.

(9) The council shall meet during the first month of each calendar year to select a chairman and for other appropriate purposes. At least one (1) additional meeting shall be held before the end of each calendar year. Further meetings may be convened at the call of the chairman or the written request of a majority of the council members, or at the request of the board.

(10) A majority of the members of the council shall constitute a quorum for all purposes.

SECTION 10. Section 73-10-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is reenacted as follows:

73-10-19. (1) It shall be a ground for removal from the advisory council if a member:

(a) Does not have at the time of appointment the qualifications required for appointment to the advisory council;

(b) Does not maintain during service on the advisory council the qualifications required for appointment to the council;



293 (c) Violates a prohibition established by this chapter;
294 or

295 (d) Fails to attend advisory council meetings for the
296 period of one (1) year.

297 (2) If a ground for removal of a member from the council
298 exists, the advisory council's actions taken during the existence
299 of the ground for removal shall be valid.

300 **SECTION 11.** Section 73-10-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
301 reenacted and amended as follows:

302 73-10-21. (1) Rules, regulations and standards.

303 (a) The board is hereby empowered, authorized and
304 directed to adopt, amend, promulgate and enforce such rules,
305 regulations and standards governing dietitians as may be necessary
306 to further the accomplishment of the purpose of the governing law,
307 and in so doing shall utilize as the basis thereof the
308 corresponding recommendations of the advisory council. The rules,
309 regulations and minimum standards for licensing of dietitians may
310 be amended by the board as deemed necessary. In so doing, the
311 board shall utilize as the basis thereof the corresponding
312 recommendations of the advisory council.

313 (b) The board shall publish and disseminate to all
314 licensees, in appropriate manner, the licensure standards
315 prescribed by this chapter, any amendments thereto, and such rules
316 and regulations as the board may adopt under the authority vested
317 by Section 73-38-13, within sixty (60) days of their adoption.

318 (2) The board shall adopt a code of ethics for dietitians
319 using as the basis thereof the ADA "Code of Ethics for the
320 Profession of Dietetics."

321 (3) Issuance and renewal of licenses.

322 (a) The board shall issue a license to any person who
323 meets the requirements of this chapter upon payment of the license
324 fee prescribed.



(b) Upon the first renewal, licenses under this chapter shall be valid for two (2) calendar years and shall be subject to renewal and shall expire unless renewed in the manner prescribed by the rules and regulations of the board, upon the payment of a biennial renewal fee to be set at the discretion of the board, but not to exceed One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), and the presentation of evidence satisfactory to the board that the licensee has met such continuing education requirements as the board may require. An applicant for license renewal shall demonstrate to the board evidence of satisfactory completion of the continuing education requirements established by the American Dietetic Association and/or other continuing education requirements as may be required by the board. However, service as a member of the Public Health and Welfare Committee of either house of the Mississippi Legislature shall meet the continuing education requirements imposed by this chapter or regulations of the board for renewal of a license under this chapter.

(c) The board may provide for the late renewal of a license upon the payment of a late fee in accordance with its rules and regulations, but no such late renewal of a license may be granted more than one (1) year after its expiration.

(d) A suspended license shall be subject to expiration and may be renewed as provided in this section, but such renewal shall not entitle the licensee, while the license remains suspended and until it is reinstated, to engage in the licensed activity, or in any other conduct or activity in violation of the order of judgment by which the license was suspended. If a license revoked on disciplinary grounds is reinstated, the licensee, as a condition of reinstatement, shall pay the renewal fee and any late fee that may be applicable.

(4) Denial or revocation of license.

(a) The board may deny or refuse to renew a license, or suspend or revoke a license, or issue orders to cease or desist



from certain conduct, or issue warnings or reprimands where the licensee or applicant for license has been convicted of unlawful conduct or has demonstrated unprofessional conduct which has endangered or is likely to endanger the health, welfare or safety of the public. Such conduct includes:

- (i) Obtaining a license by means of fraud, misrepresentation or concealment of material facts;
- (ii) Being guilty of unprofessional conduct as defined by the rules and established by the board or violating the Code of Ethics of the American Dietetic Association;
- (iii) Being convicted of a crime in any court other than a misdemeanor;
- (iv) Violating any lawful order, rule or regulation rendered or adopted by the board; or
- (v) Violating any provision of this chapter.

(b) Such denial, refusal to renew, suspension, revocation, order to cease and desist from designated conduct, or warning or reprimand may be ordered by the board in a decision made after a hearing in the manner provided by the rules and regulations adopted by the board. One (1) year from the date of the revocation of a license, application may be made to the board for reinstatement. The board shall have discretion to accept or reject an application for reinstatement and may, but shall not be required to, hold a hearing to consider such reinstatement.

(c) In addition to the reasons specified in paragraph (a) of this subsection (4), the board shall be authorized to suspend the license 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 for being out of compliance with an order for support, and the procedure for the reissuance or reinstatement of a license suspended for that purpose, and the payment of any fees for the reissuance or reinstatement of a license 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 chapter, the provisions of Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163, as the case may be, shall control.

(5) Establish fees.

(a) A person licensed under this chapter shall pay to the board a fee, not to exceed One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), to be set by the board for the issuance of a license.

(b) Such fees shall be set in such an amount as to reimburse the state to the extent feasible for the cost of the services rendered.

(6) Collect funds.

(a) The administration of the provisions of this chapter shall be financed from income accruing from fees, licenses and other charges assessed and collected by the board in administering this chapter.

(b) The board shall receive and account for all funds received and shall keep such funds in a separate fund.

(c) Funds collected under the provisions of this chapter shall be used solely for the expenses of the advisory council and the board to administer the provisions of this chapter. Such funds shall be subject to audit by the State Auditor.

(d) Members of the advisory council shall receive no compensation for services performed on the council, but may be reimbursed for necessary and actual expenses incurred in connection with attendance at meetings of the council or for authorized business of the council from funds made available for such purpose, as provided in Section 25-3-41.

(7) Receive and process complaints.

(a) The board shall have full authority to investigate and evaluate each and every applicant applying for a license to practice dietetics, with the advice of the advisory council.



424 (b) The board shall have the authority to issue
425 subpoenas, examine witnesses and administer oaths, and shall, at
426 its discretion, investigate allegations or practices violating the
427 provisions of this chapter, and in so doing shall have power to
428 seek injunctive relief to prohibit any person from providing
429 professional dietetic services as defined in Section 73-10-3(1)(j)
430 without being licensed as provided herein.

431 (8) A license certificate issued by the board is the
432 property of the board and must be surrendered on demand.

433 **SECTION 12.** Section 73-10-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
434 reenacted as follows:

435 73-10-23. Any person who violates any provision of this
436 chapter shall, upon conviction thereof, be guilty of a misdemeanor
437 and shall be punished by a fine of not more than One Thousand
438 Dollars (\$1,000.00), or imprisoned in the county jail for a period
439 not exceeding six (6) months, or both.

440 **SECTION 13.** Section 73-10-25, Mississippi Code of 1972,
441 which provides that the Mississippi Dietetics Practice Act shall
442 repeal on July 1, 2002, is repealed.

443 **SECTION 14.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
444 and after July 1, 2002.

