

By: Senator(s) Nunnelee

To: Public Health and Welfare

SENATE BILL NO. 2927

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 73-38-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REVISE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL OF ADVISORS IN
3 SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY AND PRESCRIBE ITS
4 RESPONSIBILITIES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 73-38-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 73-38-11. (1) There is established the Mississippi Council
9 of Advisors in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology under the
10 jurisdiction of the Mississippi State Board of Health. The
11 purpose of the council is to advise the State Board of Health on
12 matters relating to the administration and interpretation of the
13 provisions of this chapter.

14 (2) The council shall be comprised of seven (7) members.
15 Two (2) council members shall be speech-language pathologists, two
16 (2) council members shall be audiologists, and two (2) council
17 members shall be a licensed member of the health professions and a
18 member of the public, both with an interest in the consumption of
19 speech-language pathology or audiology services, with the seventh
20 council member being a licensed physician * * *. All council
21 members who are speech-language pathologists or audiologists shall
22 at all times be holders of active and valid licenses for the
23 practice of speech-language pathology and audiology in this state
24 and shall be holders of the ASHA Certificate of Clinical
25 Competence in Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology or its
26 equivalent.

27 (3) * * * No more than three (3) members of the council
28 shall be appointed from any one (1) Supreme Court district as

29 presently constituted. * * * Appointments made shall be for
30 three-year terms, with no person being eligible to serve more than
31 two (2) full consecutive terms. Terms shall begin on the first
32 day of the calendar year and end on the last day of the calendar
33 year.

34 (4) Not less than sixty (60) days before the end of each
35 calendar year, nominations to the Council of Advisors in
36 Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology may be received by the
37 Mississippi State Board of Health from the Mississippi
38 Speech-Language-Hearing Association * * * for the positions
39 represented by speech-language pathologists or audiologists, * * *
40 from the Mississippi Medical Association for the position
41 represented by a licensed physician, and * * * from licensed
42 speech pathologists and audiologists for the positions represented
43 by licensed members of the health professions. In the event of a
44 vacancy, the board shall, within thirty (30) days after such
45 vacancy, appoint a person from the previous list of names
46 submitted who shall fill the unexpired term.

47 (5) The council shall elect annually from its membership a
48 chairman and any other officers as necessary to carry out its
49 duties. The council shall meet at least two (2) times each year.
50 Further meetings may be convened at the call of the chairman or
51 the written request of any two (2) council members. All meetings
52 of the council shall be open to the public, except that the
53 council may hold closed sessions to prepare, approve, grade or
54 administer examinations, or upon request of an applicant who fails
55 an examination, to prepare a response indicating any reason for
56 his failure. * * *

57 (6) Four (4) members of the council shall constitute a
58 quorum for all purposes, but in no instance shall a meeting of
59 four (4) council members be considered a quorum if there is not at
60 least one (1) speech-language pathologist and one (1) audiologist
61 present.

62 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
63 and after July 1, 2007.