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To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 888

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 7-9-70, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 INCLUDE ANY BURN CENTER AFFILIATED WITH A LEVEL 1 TRAUMA CENTER IN
3 THE MISSISSIPPI TRAUMA CARE SYSTEM AS A BURN CENTER FOR WHICH
4 FUNDS SHALL BE APPROPRIATED FROM THE MISSISSIPPI BURN CARE FUND;
5 TO DELETE THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER AS BEING AN
6 AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR RECEIVING GIFTS, DONATIONS, BEQUESTS,
7 APPROPRIATIONS OR GRANTS AND FOR DEPOSIT OF SUCH INTO THE
8 MISSISSIPPI BURN CARE FUND; TO AMEND SECTION 27-19-44.4,
9 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF THE ADDITIONAL
10 FEE THAT IS IMPOSED FOR ANY DISTINCTIVE OR SPECIAL LICENSE TAG OR
11 PLATE AND THE PROCEEDS OF WHICH ARE DEPOSITED INTO THE MISSISSIPPI
12 BURN CARE FUND; TO AMEND SECTION 41-59-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
13 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT THE STATE THE BOARD OF HEALTH SHALL REVISE
14 THE PLAN FOR THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES TO MISSISSIPPI BURN VICTIMS
15 THROUGH THE EXISTING TRAUMA CARE SYSTEM OF HOSPITALS TO INCLUDE
16 ANY BURN CENTER AFFILIATED WITH A LEVEL I TRAUMA CENTER IN THE
17 MISSISSIPPI TRAUMA CARE SYSTEM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

19 **SECTION 1.** Section 7-9-70, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
20 amended as follows:

21 7-9-70. (1) There is created and established in the State
22 Treasury a special trust fund to be known as the "Mississippi Fire
23 Fighters Memorial Burn Center Fund." There shall be deposited in
24 such fund (a) all such fees as the State Treasurer is directed to
25 deposit therein under subsection (4) of Section 27-19-56.1, under



26 subsection (4) of Section 27-19-56.2 and under subsection (5) (b)
27 of Section 27-19-56.4; and (b) any gift, donation, bequest, trust,
28 grant, endowment, transfer of money or securities or any other
29 monies from any source whatsoever as may be designated for deposit
30 in the fund.

31 (2) The principal of the trust fund created under subsection
32 (1) of this section shall remain inviolate and shall be invested
33 as provided by law. Interest and income derived from investment
34 of the principal of the trust fund may be appropriated by the
35 Legislature and expended exclusively for the support and
36 maintenance of the Mississippi Fire Fighters Memorial Burn Center.

37 (3) From and after June 17, 2005, there shall be created in
38 the State Treasury a fund known as the Mississippi Burn Care Fund.
39 The Mississippi Burn Care Fund shall be the Mississippi Fire
40 Fighters Memorial Burn Center Fund and any reference to the
41 Mississippi Fire Fighters Memorial Burn Center Fund in law shall
42 mean the Mississippi Burn Care Fund. All funds payable to the
43 Mississippi Fire Fighters Memorial Burn Center Fund shall, from
44 and after June 17, 2005, be paid to the Mississippi Burn Care
45 Fund. All balances in the Mississippi Fire Fighters Memorial Burn
46 Center Fund and the Mississippi Fire Fighters Memorial Fire
47 Fighters Burn Center Escrow Fund shall be transferred to the
48 Mississippi Burn Care Fund on June 17, 2005. All interest earned
49 by funds in the Mississippi Burn Care Fund shall be credited to
50 the fund and not the General Fund. For fiscal year 2006, and for



51 each fiscal year thereafter, the Legislature may appropriate
52 interest, income or other funds credited to the Mississippi Burn
53 Care Fund, and there shall be no requirement that the monies
54 deposited to the fund be held inviolate in trust. Any
55 appropriation of funds from the Mississippi Burn Care Fund shall
56 be to the Mississippi Department of Health for the purpose of
57 carrying out its responsibilities established in Section 41-59-5;
58 however, after the Mississippi Burn Center established at the
59 University of Mississippi Medical Center under Section 37-115-45
60 is operational, any appropriation of funds from the Mississippi
61 Burn Care Fund shall be to the University of Mississippi Medical
62 Center for the operation of the Mississippi Burn Center and to any
63 burn center affiliated with a Level I trauma center in the
64 Mississippi Trauma Care System. The Mississippi Burn Care Fund
65 shall be authorized to accept gifts, donations, bequests,
66 appropriations or other grants from any source, governmental or
67 private, for deposit into the fund. The Department of
68 Health * * * shall be the agency responsible for receiving any
69 such gifts, donations, bequests, appropriations or grants and
70 shall deposit such to the Mississippi Burn Care Fund.

71 **SECTION 2.** Section 27-19-44.4, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
72 amended as follows:

73 27-19-44.4. (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law
74 to the contrary, beginning with any registration year commencing
75 on or after January 1, 2004, an additional fee of One Dollar



76 (\$1.00) is imposed for any distinctive or special license tag or
77 plate authorized under this chapter regardless of whether such a
78 distinctive or special license tag or plate was authorized before
79 or after July 1, 2003. The proceeds collected from the additional
80 fee imposed under this section shall be deposited into the special
81 fund created under Section 27-19-56.69(8).

82 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the
83 contrary, beginning with any registration year commencing on or
84 after January 1, * * * 2025, an additional fee of * * * Four
85 Dollars (\$4.00) is imposed for any distinctive or special license
86 tag or plate authorized under this chapter regardless of whether
87 such a distinctive or special license tag or plate was authorized
88 before or after July 1, * * * 2025. The proceeds collected from
89 the additional fee imposed under this section shall be deposited
90 into the Mississippi Burn Care Fund created under Section 7-9-70.

91 (3) The fees imposed under this section shall be in addition
92 to any other fees imposed under this chapter for a distinctive or
93 special license tag or plate.

94 (4) The provisions of this section shall not apply to
95 distinctive or special license tags or plates:

96 (a) Which are issued under Section 27-19-46, 27-19-51,
97 27-19-53, 27-19-54, 27-19-56.5, 27-19-56.12, 27-19-56.13,
98 27-19-56.33, 27-19-56.36, 27-19-56.38, 27-19-56.42, 27-19-56.48,
99 27-19-56.49, 27-19-56.50, 27-19-56.51, 27-19-56.62, 27-19-56.79,
100 27-19-56.85 or 27-19-169; or



101 (b) For which no additional fee is required to be paid.

102 **SECTION 3.** Section 41-59-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
103 amended as follows:

104 41-59-5. (1) The State Board of Health shall establish and
105 maintain a program for the improvement and regulation of emergency
106 medical services (hereinafter EMS) in the State of Mississippi.
107 The responsibility for implementation and conduct of this program
108 shall be vested in the State Health Officer of the State Board of
109 Health along with such other officers and boards as may be
110 specified by law or regulation.

111 (2) The board shall provide for the regulation and licensing
112 of public and private ambulance service, inspection and issuance
113 of permits for ambulance vehicles, training and certification of
114 EMS personnel, including drivers and attendants, the development
115 and maintenance of a statewide EMS records program, development
116 and adoption of EMS regulations, the coordination of an EMS
117 communications system, and other related EMS activities.

118 (3) The board is authorized to promulgate and enforce such
119 rules, regulations and minimum standards as needed to carry out
120 the provisions of this chapter.

121 (4) The board is authorized to receive any funds
122 appropriated to the board from the Emergency Medical Services
123 Operating Fund created in Section 41-59-61 and is further
124 authorized, with the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council
125 acting in an advisory capacity, to administer the disbursement of



126 such funds to the counties, municipalities and organized emergency
127 medical service districts and the utilization of such funds by the
128 same, as provided in Section 41-59-61.

129 (5) The department acting as the lead agency, in
130 consultation with and having solicited advice from the EMS
131 Advisory Council, shall develop a uniform nonfragmented inclusive
132 statewide trauma care system that provides excellent patient care.
133 It is the intent of the Legislature that the purpose of this
134 system is to reduce death and disability resulting from traumatic
135 injury, and in order to accomplish this goal it is necessary to
136 assign additional responsibilities to the department. The
137 department is assigned the responsibility for creating,
138 implementing and managing the statewide trauma care system. The
139 department shall be designated as the lead agency for trauma care
140 systems development. The department shall develop and administer
141 trauma regulations that include, but are not limited to, the
142 Mississippi Trauma Care System Plan, trauma system standards,
143 trauma center designations, field triage, interfacility trauma
144 transfer, EMS aero medical transportation, trauma data collection,
145 trauma care system evaluation and management of state trauma
146 systems funding. The department shall promulgate regulations
147 specifying the methods and procedures by which
148 Mississippi-licensed acute care facilities shall participate in
149 the statewide trauma system. Those regulations shall include
150 mechanisms for determining the appropriate level of participation



151 for each facility or class of facilities. The department shall
152 also adopt a schedule of fees to be assessed for facilities that
153 choose not to participate in the statewide trauma care system, or
154 which participate at a level lower than the level at which they
155 are capable of participating. The fees paid under this provision
156 shall be for the exclusive benefit of the statewide trauma care
157 system and shall not lapse into the State General Fund. The
158 department shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to
159 effectuate this provision by September 1, 2008, with an
160 implementation date of September 1, 2008. The department shall
161 take the necessary steps to develop, adopt and implement the
162 Mississippi Trauma Care System Plan and all associated trauma care
163 system regulations necessary to implement the Mississippi Trauma
164 Care System. The department shall cause the implementation of
165 both professional and lay trauma education programs. These trauma
166 educational programs shall include both clinical trauma education
167 and injury prevention. As it is recognized that rehabilitation
168 services are essential for traumatized individuals to be returned
169 to active, productive lives, the department shall coordinate the
170 development of the inclusive trauma system with the Mississippi
171 Department of Rehabilitation Services and all other appropriate
172 rehabilitation systems.

173 (6) The State Board of Health is authorized to receive any
174 funds appropriated to the board from the Mississippi Trauma
175 Care * * * Systems Fund created in Section 41-59-75. It is



176 further authorized, with the Emergency Medical Services Advisory
177 Council and the Mississippi Trauma Advisory Committee acting in
178 advisory capacities, to administer the disbursements of those
179 funds according to adopted trauma care system regulations. Any
180 Level I trauma care facility or center located in a state
181 contiguous to the State of Mississippi that participates in the
182 Mississippi Trauma Care System and has been designated by the
183 department to perform specified trauma care services within the
184 Trauma Care System under standards adopted by the department shall
185 receive a reasonable amount of reimbursement from the department
186 for the cost of providing trauma care services to Mississippi
187 residents whose treatment is uncompensated.

188 (7) In addition to the trauma-related duties provided for in
189 this section, the Board of Health shall develop a plan for the
190 delivery of services to Mississippi burn victims through the
191 existing trauma care system of hospitals. Such plan shall be
192 operational by July 1, 2005, and shall include:

193 (a) Systems by which burn patients will be assigned or
194 transferred to hospitals capable of meeting their needs;

195 (b) Until the Mississippi Burn Center established at
196 the University of Mississippi Medical Center under Section
197 37-115-45 is operational, procedures for allocating funds
198 appropriated from the Mississippi Burn Care Fund to hospitals that
199 provide services to Mississippi burn victims; and



200 (c) Such other provisions necessary to provide burn
201 care for Mississippi residents, including reimbursement for
202 travel, lodging, if no free lodging is available, meals and other
203 reasonable travel-related expenses incurred by burn victims,
204 family members and/or caregivers, as established by the State
205 Board of Health through rules and regulations.

206 After the Mississippi Burn Center established at the
207 University of Mississippi Medical Center under Section 37-115-45
208 is operational, the Board of Health shall revise the plan to
209 include the Mississippi Burn Center and any burn center affiliated
210 with a Level I trauma center in the Mississippi Trauma Care
211 System.

212 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
213 and after July 1, 2025.

