

By: Representative Eubanks

To: Public Health and Human  
Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 418

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 73-15-5 AND 73-15-20, MISSISSIPPI  
2 CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE CERTIFIED NURSE MIDWIVES TO PRACTICE AS  
3 AN ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE WITHOUT HAVING A WRITTEN  
4 COLLABORATIVE/CONSULTATIVE RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENT WITH A PHYSICIAN  
5 OR HAVING AN AGREEMENT WITH A PHYSICIAN REGARDING THE PROTOCOL OR  
6 PRACTICE GUIDELINES OF THE CERTIFIED NURSE MIDWIFE; AND FOR  
7 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 73-15-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
10 amended as follows:

11 73-15-5. (1) "Board" means the Mississippi Board of  
12 Nursing.

13 (2) The "practice of nursing" by a registered nurse means  
14 the performance for compensation of services which requires  
15 substantial knowledge of the biological, physical, behavioral,  
16 psychological and sociological sciences and of nursing theory as  
17 the basis for assessment, diagnosis, planning, intervention and  
18 evaluation in the promotion and maintenance of health; management  
19 of individuals' responses to illness, injury or infirmity; the  
20 restoration of optimum function; or the achievement of a dignified



21 death. "Nursing practice" includes, but is not limited to,  
22 administration, teaching, counseling, delegation and supervision  
23 of nursing, and execution of the medical regimen, including the  
24 administration of medications and treatments prescribed by any  
25 licensed or legally authorized physician or dentist. The  
26 foregoing shall not be deemed to include acts of medical diagnosis  
27 or prescriptions of medical, therapeutic or corrective measures,  
28 except as may be set forth by rules and regulations promulgated  
29 and implemented by the Mississippi Board of Nursing.

30 (3) "Clinical nurse specialist practice" by a certified  
31 clinical nurse specialist means the delivery of advanced practice  
32 nursing care to individuals or groups using advanced diagnostic  
33 and assessment skills to manage and improve the health status of  
34 individuals and families; diagnose human responses to actual or  
35 potential health problems; plan for health promotion, disease  
36 prevention, and therapeutic intervention in collaboration with the  
37 patient or client; implement therapeutic interventions based on  
38 the nurse specialist's area of expertise and within the scope of  
39 advanced nursing practice, including, but not limited to, direct  
40 patient care, counseling, teaching, collaboration with other  
41 licensed health care providers; and, coordination of health care  
42 as necessary and appropriate and evaluation of the effectiveness  
43 of care.

44 (4) "Advanced nursing practice" means, in addition to the  
45 practice of professional nursing, the performance of



advanced-level nursing approved by the board which, by virtue of graduate education and experience are appropriately performed by an advanced practice registered nurse. The advanced practice registered nurse may diagnose, treat and manage medical conditions. This may include prescriptive authority as identified by the board. Advanced practice registered nurses must practice in a collaborative/consultative relationship with a physician or dentist with an unrestricted license to practice in the State of Mississippi, except as otherwise authorized in Section 73-15-20(3), and advanced nursing must be performed within the framework of a standing protocol or practice guidelines, as appropriate.

(5) The "practice of nursing" by a licensed practical nurse means the performance for compensation of services requiring basic knowledge of the biological, physical, behavioral, psychological and sociological sciences and of nursing procedures which do not require the substantial skill, judgment and knowledge required of a registered nurse. These services are performed under the direction of a registered nurse or a licensed physician or licensed dentist and utilize standardized procedures in the observation and care of the ill, injured and infirm; in the maintenance of health; in action to safeguard life and health; and in the administration of medications and treatments prescribed by any licensed physician or licensed dentist authorized by state law to prescribe. On a selected basis, and within safe limits, the



71 role of the licensed practical nurse shall be expanded by the  
72 board under its rule-making authority to more complex procedures  
73 and settings commensurate with additional preparation and  
74 experience.

75 (6) A "license" means an authorization to practice nursing  
76 as a registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse designated  
77 herein.

78 (7) A "registered nurse" is a person who is licensed or  
79 holds the privilege to practice under the provisions of this  
80 article and who practices nursing as defined herein. "RN" is the  
81 abbreviation for the title of Registered Nurse.

82 (8) A "licensed practical nurse" is a person who is licensed  
83 or holds the privilege to practice under this article and who  
84 practices practical nursing as defined herein. "LPN" is the  
85 abbreviation for the title of Licensed Practical Nurse.

86 (9) A "registered nurse in clinical practice" is one who  
87 functions in any health care delivery system which provides  
88 nursing services.

89 (10) A "clinical nurse specialist" is a person who is  
90 licensed or holds the privilege to practice under this article in  
91 this state to practice professional nursing and who in this state  
92 practices advanced nursing as defined herein. "CNS" is the  
93 abbreviation for the title of Clinical Nurse Specialist.

94 (11) An "advanced practice registered nurse" is a person who  
95 is licensed or holds the privilege to practice under this article



96 and who is certified in advanced practice registered nurse or  
97 specialized nursing practice and includes certified registered  
98 nurse midwives, certified registered nurse anesthetists and  
99 certified nurse practitioners. "CNM" is the abbreviation for the  
100 title of Certified Nurse Midwife, "CRNA" is the abbreviation for  
101 the title of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. "CNP" is the  
102 abbreviation for the title of Certified Nurse Practitioner.

103 (12) A "nurse educator" is a registered nurse who meets the  
104 criteria for faculty as set forth in a state-accredited program of  
105 nursing for registered nurses, or a state-approved program of  
106 nursing for licensed practical nurses, and who functions as a  
107 faculty member.

108 (13) A "consumer representative" is a person representing  
109 the interests of the general public, who may use services of a  
110 health agency or health professional organization or its members  
111 but who is neither a provider of health services, nor employed in  
112 the health services field, nor holds a vested interest in the  
113 provision of health services at any level, nor has an immediate  
114 family member who holds vested interests in the provision of  
115 health services at any level.

116 (14) "Privilege to practice" means the multistate licensure  
117 privilege to practice nursing in the state as described in the  
118 Nurse Licensure Compact provided for in Section 73-15-201.



(15) "Licensee" is a person who has been issued a license to practice nursing in the state or who holds the privilege to practice nursing in the state.

**SECTION 2.** Section 73-15-20, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

73-15-20. (1) **Advanced practice registered nurses.** Any nurse desiring to be certified as an advanced practice registered nurse shall apply to the board and submit proof that he or she holds a current license to practice professional nursing and that he or she meets one or more of the following requirements:

(a) Satisfactory completion of a formal post-basic educational program of at least one (1) academic year, the primary purpose of which is to prepare nurses for advanced or specialized practice.

(b) Certification by a board-approved certifying body. Such certification shall be required for initial state certification and any recertification as a registered nurse anesthetist, nurse practitioner or nurse midwife. The board may by rule provide for provisional or temporary state certification of graduate nurse practitioners for a period of time determined to be appropriate for preparing and passing the National Certification Examination. Those with provisional or temporary certifications must practice under the direct supervision of a licensed physician or a certified nurse practitioner or certified nurse midwife with at least five (5) years of experience.



(c) Graduation from a program leading to a master's or post-master's degree in a nursing clinical specialty area with preparation in specialized practitioner skills.

(2) **Rulemaking.** The board shall provide by rule the appropriate requirements for advanced practice registered nurses in the categories of certified registered nurse anesthetist, certified nurse midwife and advanced practice registered nurse.

(3) **Collaboration.** Except as otherwise authorized in this subsection (3), an advanced practice registered nurse shall perform those functions authorized in this section within a collaborative/consultative relationship with a dentist or physician with an unrestricted license to practice dentistry or medicine in this state and within an established protocol or practice guidelines, as appropriate, that is filed with the board upon license application, license renewal, after entering into a new collaborative/consultative relationship or making changes to the protocol or practice guidelines or practice site. The board shall review and approve the protocol to ensure compliance with applicable regulatory standards. The advanced practice registered nurse may not practice as an \* \* \* advance practice registered nurse if there is no collaborative/consultative relationship with a physician or dentist and a board-approved protocol or practice guidelines. However, a certified nurse midwife is not required to have a written collaborative/consultative relationship agreement with a physician or have an agreement with a physician regarding



169 the protocol or practice guidelines of the certified nurse midwife  
170 in order to practice as an advance practice registered nurse.

171       (4) **Renewal.** The board shall renew a license for an  
172 advanced practice registered nurse upon receipt of the renewal  
173 application, fees and protocol or practice guidelines. The board  
174 shall adopt rules establishing procedures for license renewals.  
175 The board shall by rule prescribe continuing education  
176 requirements for advanced practice nurses not to exceed forty (40)  
177 hours biennially as a condition for renewal of a license or  
178 certificate.

179       (5) **Reinstatement.** Advanced practice registered nurses may  
180 reinstate a lapsed privilege to practice upon submitting  
181 documentation of a current active license to practice professional  
182 nursing, a reinstatement application and fee, a protocol or  
183 practice guidelines, documentation of current certification as an  
184 advanced practice nurse in a designated area of practice by a  
185 national certification organization recognized by the board and  
186 documentation of at least forty (40) hours of continuing education  
187 related to the advanced clinical practice of the nurse  
188 practitioner within the previous two-year period. The board shall  
189 adopt rules establishing the procedure for reinstatement.

190       (6) **Changes in status.** The advanced practice registered  
191 nurse shall notify the board immediately regarding changes in the  
192 collaborative/consultative relationship with a licensed physician  
193 or dentist. If changes leave the advanced practice registered





nurse without a board-approved collaborative/consultative relationship with a physician or dentist, the advanced practice registered nurse may not practice as an advanced practice registered nurse.

(7) **Practice requirements.** The advanced practice registered nurse shall practice:

(a) According to standards and guidelines of the National Certification Organization.

(b) In a collaborative/consultative relationship with a licensed physician whose practice is compatible with that of the nurse practitioner, except as otherwise authorized in Section 73-15-20(3). Certified registered nurse anesthetists may collaborate/consult with licensed dentists. The advanced practice nurse must be able to communicate reliably with a collaborating/consulting physician or dentist while practicing.

(c) According to a board-approved protocol or practice guidelines.

(d) Advanced practice registered nurses practicing as nurse anesthetists must practice according to board-approved practice guidelines that address pre-anesthesia preparation and evaluation; anesthesia induction, maintenance, and emergence; post-anesthesia care; peri-anesthetic and clinical support functions.

(e) Except as otherwise authorized in Section 73-15-20(3), advanced practice registered nurses practicing in



219 other specialty areas must practice according to a board-approved  
220 protocol that has been mutually agreed upon by the nurse  
221 practitioner and a Mississippi licensed physician or dentist whose  
222 practice or prescriptive authority is not limited as a result of  
223 voluntary surrender or legal/regulatory order.

224 (f) Each collaborative/consultative relationship shall  
225 include and implement a formal quality assurance/quality  
226 improvement program which shall be maintained on site and shall be  
227 available for inspection by representatives of the board. This  
228 quality assurance/quality improvement program must be sufficient  
229 to provide a valid evaluation of the practice and be a valid basis  
230 for change, if any.

231 (g) Nurse practitioners may not write prescriptions  
232 for, dispense or order the use of or administration of any  
233 schedule of controlled substances except as contained in this  
234 chapter.

235 (8) **Prescribing controlled substances and medications.**

236 Certified nurse midwives and certified nurse practitioners may  
237 apply for controlled substance prescriptive authority after  
238 completing a board-approved educational program. Certified nurse  
239 midwives and certified nurse practitioners who have completed the  
240 program and received prescription authority from the board may  
241 prescribe Schedules II-V. The words "administer," "controlled  
242 substances" and "ultimate user," shall have the same meaning as  
243 set forth in Section 41-29-105, unless the context otherwise



requires. The board shall promulgate rules governing prescribing of controlled substances, including distribution, record keeping, drug maintenance, labeling and distribution requirements and prescription guidelines for controlled substances and all medications. Prescribing any controlled substance in violation of the rules promulgated by the board shall constitute a violation of Section 73-15-29(1)(f), (k) and (l) and shall be grounds for disciplinary action. The prescribing, administering or distributing of any legend drug or other medication in violation of the rules promulgated by the board shall constitute a violation of Section 73-15-29(1)(f), (k) and (l) and shall be grounds for disciplinary action.

**SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2026.

