

SENATE BILL 884

By Niceley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63,  
relative to doctors of medical science.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapter 19, is amended by adding the following as a new part:

**63-19-301.**

This part shall be known and may be cited as the "Doctor of Medical Science Act."

**63-19-302.**

As used in this part:

(1) "Board" means the board of medical examiners, created by § 63-6-101;

(2) "Committee" means the board of medical examiners' committee on doctors of medical science;

(3) "Division" means the division of health related boards in the department of health, created by § 68-1-101;

(4) "Doctor of medical science" or "DMS" means an individual who is a graduate of an accredited doctor of medical science program, meets the requirements of this part, lawfully renders services, whether diagnostic or therapeutic, in the practice of primary care, and has received a license as described in § 63-19-303;

(5) "Doctor of medical science program" means a doctoral medical program that trains physician assistants in advanced clinical medicine, and

further prepares the doctor of medical science for clinical practice equivalent to a medical doctor in the practice discipline of primary care;

(6) "Physician" means a person lawfully licensed to practice medicine and surgery pursuant to chapter 6 of this title or osteopathic medicine pursuant to chapter 9 of this title; and

(7) "Physician assistant" means an individual who renders services, whether diagnostic or therapeutic, that are acts constituting the practice of medicine or osteopathic medicine and, but for §§ 63-6-204 and 63-9-113, could only be performed by a licensed physician.

**63-19-303.**

(a) The board shall grant an applicant a license as a doctor of medical science if the person:

(1) Previously has been licensed and served in clinical practice for at least three (3) years in one (1) or more states as a physician assistant;

(2) Is a graduate of a minimum two-year doctor of medical science program accredited by a regional body under the United States department of education;

(3) Has successfully completed the examination on the certification of doctors of medical science, with the examination determined by the board; and

(4) As determined by the board pursuant to rules promulgated under this part, provides satisfactory evidence of an affiliation or association with a hospital, group practice, or a list of physicians with medical expertise outside the expertise of the person seeking licensure as a doctor of medical science.

(b) Upon the issuance of a license by the board as provided in this part, the person receiving the license is entitled to practice in this state as a doctor of medical science.

(c) A person licensed under this part as a doctor of medical science is subject to the provisions of title 63, chapter 6, applicable to the practice of medicine and any rules adopted by the board.

(d)

(1) The board shall provide for renewal of licenses for a person licensed under this part as a doctor of medical science in the same manner as provided in § 63-6-210 for medical doctors, with the further requirement that the renewal application include evidence either of affiliation or association with a hospital or group practice, or a list of physicians with medical expertise outside the expertise of the DMS and with whom the DMS-licensed person is able to consult as needed or appropriate, on file with the board at the time of relicensing.

(2) Every licensed doctor of medical science shall biennially pay a licensing renewal fee as set by the committee. In order for a license to be renewed, licensees shall also present satisfactory evidence to the committee that the licensee in the year preceding the application for renewal successfully completed one hundred (100) hours of continuing medical education and met all of the other requirements of this part.

(3) Each person having a license must be notified prior to the due date of the renewal fee.

(4)

(A) When a licensed doctor of medical science fails to renew the person's license and pay the biennial license fee within sixty (60) days after license renewal becomes due as provided in this section, the license of the person is automatically revoked at the expiration of the sixty (60) days after the registration was required, without further notice or hearing.

(B) Any person whose license is automatically revoked as provided in subdivision (d)(4)(A) may make application in writing to the committee for the reinstatement of the license and, upon good cause being shown, the committee, in its discretion, may reinstate the license upon payment of all past-due renewal fees and upon further payment of a sum to be set by the committee.

(5)

(A) Notwithstanding this part to the contrary, the division, with the approval of the commissioner of health, shall establish a system of license renewals at alternative intervals that will allow for the distribution of the license workload as uniformly as is practicable throughout the calendar year.

(B) No renewal application may be accepted after the last day of the month following the license expiration date under the alternative method authorized in this subdivision (d)(5).

**63-19-304.**

(a) Pursuant to this part, the board may promulgate rules related to the scope of practice, application process, license renewal, penalties, and other areas as the board determines necessary for licensed doctors of medical science.

(b) The board may also establish a committee on doctors of medical science to assist with the promulgation of rules. Any rules promulgated by the board or the committee on doctors of medical science must be promulgated in accordance with the requirements of the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-1-102(2), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

( ) Doctor of medical science licensed under chapter 19, part 3 of this title;

SECTION 3. For rulemaking purposes, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect January 1, 2020, the public welfare requiring it.