

By: Representative Ishee

To: Universities and
Colleges;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 126

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 37-102-3, 37-102-7 AND 37-102-11,
2 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
3 STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING TO DESIGNATE THE UNIVERSITY
4 OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST BRANCH CAMPUS AS AN ENHANCED
5 DEGREE-GRANTING BRANCH CAMPUS WITH FULL AUTHORITY TO OFFER
6 UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL FRESHMAN AND SOPHOMORE COURSES REQUIRED FOR
7 COMPLETION OF THE UNIVERSITY'S BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAMS; AND FOR
8 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 SECTION 1. Section 37-102-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
11 amended as follows:

12 37-102-3. (1) The Board of Trustees of State Institutions
13 of Higher Learning, hereafter referred to as the board, may
14 designate the existing degree-granting university branch campus of
15 the University of Southern Mississippi serving the Mississippi
16 Gulf Coast counties as an enhanced degree-granting university
17 branch campus with full authority to add such lower undergraduate
18 level freshman and sophomore courses that may be required for
19 completion of the university's bachelor's degree programs if each
20 of the following terms and conditions are met:

21 (a) The University of Southern Mississippi branch
22 campus must have registered an opening head-count enrollment of at
23 least one thousand four hundred (1,400) students in upper level
24 and graduate credit courses at the opening of each of the previous
25 three (3) fall terms.

26 (b) The political subdivision or the people of the
27 Mississippi Gulf Coast counties served by the university branch
28 campus must have assisted in developing or enhancing facilities
29 for the university branch campus site.

30 (2) In no instance shall the board permit the University of

31 Southern Mississippi to offer lower undergraduate level courses or
32 programs at its Gulf Coast branch campus unless each of the above
33 stipulations have been met.

34 SECTION 2. Section 37-102-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
35 amended as follows:

36 37-102-7. The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of
37 Higher Learning shall submit to the Legislature budget requests
38 with off-campus and branch campus programs being an identified
39 part of the total general support budget request for universities
40 by being a separate item within the budget request of the
41 respective university which offers the program. The budget
42 request shall include: (a) a statement of all actual or estimated
43 receipts and disbursements for such off-campus or branch campus
44 programs; (b) a comparison of the estimated state expenditure per
45 full-time equivalent student studying at the off-campus site or
46 branch campus as compared to the estimated state expenditure per
47 full-time equivalent student studying at the parent university's
48 main campus; and (c) such other information as may be required by
49 the Legislative Budget Office. It is the intent of the
50 Legislature that the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of
51 Higher Learning shall allocate to branch campuses owning
52 substantial land and buildings state funds adequate to maintain
53 those buildings in addition to such instructional funds that are
54 necessary to provide branch campus students a quality of
55 instruction equal to that available on the parent university
56 campus.

57 SECTION 3. Section 37-102-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
58 amended as follows:

59 37-102-11. The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of
60 Higher Learning may permit extracurricular items such as
61 dormitories, gymnasiums * * * and such related items to be
62 constructed for use by off-campus sites of universities for
63 undergraduate physical education and recreation which may be
64 needed for approved courses of instruction or which meet the

65 demonstrated needs of the urban communities they serve. A
66 university branch campus or off-campus site of a university may
67 not develop or implement intercollegiate sports programs or teams
68 that duplicate intercollegiate sports programs or teams on the
69 parent university's campus.

70 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from
71 and after July 1, 1999.