

By: Representative Grist

To: Universities and
Colleges

HOUSE BILL NO. 1245

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-29-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 DECREASE THE MINIMUM ACT SCORE REQUIRED FOR STUDENTS TO BE
3 ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN A COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S DUAL ENROLLMENT
4 PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 37-29-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 37-29-1. (1) The creation, establishment, maintenance and
9 operation of community and junior colleges is authorized. From
10 and after May 1, 1998, community and junior colleges may admit
11 students if they have earned one (1) unit less than the number of
12 units required for high school graduation established by State
13 Board of Education policy or have earned a General Education
14 Diploma (GED) in courses correlated to those of senior colleges or
15 professional schools. They shall offer education and training
16 preparatory for occupations such as agriculture, industry,
17 business, homemaking and for other occupations on the
18 semi-professional and vocational-technical level. They may offer
19 courses and services to students regardless of their previous
20 educational attainment or further academic plans.

21 (2) The boards of trustees of the community and junior
22 college districts are authorized to establish a dual enrollment
23 program under which high school students meeting the requirements
24 prescribed herein may enroll at a community or junior college
25 while they are still attending high school and enrolled in high
26 school courses. Students may be admitted to enroll in community
27 or junior college courses under the dual enrollment program if

28 they meet the following recommended admission requirements:

29 (a) Students must have completed a minimum of fourteen
30 (14) core high school units;

31 (b) Students must have a minimum ACT composite score of
32 eighteen (18) or the equivalent SAT score;

33 (c) Students must have a 3.0 grade point average on a
34 4.0 scale, or better, on all high school courses, as documented by
35 an official high school transcript; a home-schooled student must
36 submit a transcript prepared by a parent, guardian or custodian
37 with a signed, sworn affidavit to meet the requirement of this
38 paragraph * * *; and

39 (d) Students must have an unconditional written
40 recommendation from their high school principal and/or guidance
41 counselor. A home-schooled student must submit a parent, legal
42 guardian or custodian's written recommendation to meet the
43 requirement of this paragraph * * *.

44 Students may be considered for the dual enrollment program
45 who have not completed the minimum of fourteen (14) core high
46 school units if they have a minimum ACT composite score of thirty
47 (30) or the equivalent SAT score, and have the required grade
48 point average and recommendations prescribed above.

49 Students admitted in the dual enrollment program shall be
50 counted for minimum program funding purposes in the average daily
51 attendance of the public school district in which they attend high
52 school. Any additional transportation required by a student to
53 participate in the dual enrollment program shall be the
54 responsibility of the parents or legal guardians of the student.
55 Grades and college credits earned by students admitted to the dual
56 enrollment program shall be recorded on the college transcript at
57 the community or junior college where the student attends classes.

58 The transcript of such college course work may be released to
59 another institution or used for college graduation requirements
60 only after the student has received his high school diploma.

61 (3) The boards of trustees of the community and junior
62 college districts are authorized to establish an early admission
63 program under which applicants meeting all requirements prescribed
64 in subsection (2)(a), (c) and (d) and have a minimum ACT composite

65 score of twenty-six (26) or the equivalent SAT score may be
66 admitted as full-time college students if the principal or
67 guidance counsellor of the student recommends in writing that it
68 is in the best educational interest of the student. Such
69 recommendation shall also state that the student's age will not
70 keep him from being a successful full-time college student.
71 Students admitted in the early admission program shall not be
72 counted for minimum program funding purposes in the average daily
73 attendance of the school district in which they reside, and
74 transportation required by a student to participate in the early
75 admission program shall be the responsibility of the parents or
76 legal guardians of the student. Grades and college credits earned
77 by students admitted to the early admission program shall be
78 recorded on the college transcript at the community or junior
79 college where the student attends classes, and may be released to
80 another institution or used for college graduation requirements
81 only after the student has successfully completed one (1) full
82 semester of course work.

83 (4) In addition to the foregoing, the community and junior
84 colleges shall provide, through courses or other acceptable
85 educational measures, the general education necessary to
86 individuals and groups which will tend to make them capable of
87 living satisfactory lives consistent with the ideals of a
88 democratic society.

89 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
90 and after July 1, 1999.