

By: Senator(s) Hall

To: Universities and  
Colleges;  
AppropriationsCOMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 2038

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PART-TIME STUDENT TUITION ASSISTANCE  
2 GRANT PROGRAM FOR FIRST-TIME PART-TIME STUDENTS AT PUBLIC AND  
3 PRIVATE TWO-YEAR AND FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN  
4 MISSISSIPPI TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE MISSISSIPPI POSTSECONDARY  
5 EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BOARD; TO ESTABLISH GRANT AWARDS  
6 AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE PROGRAM AND PENALTIES FOR  
7 FRAUDULENT RECEIPT OF GRANT AWARDS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 SECTION 1. (1) There is established the Part-time Student  
10 Tuition Assistance Grant Program for part-time college or  
11 university freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors to be  
12 administered by the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial  
13 Assistance Board established under Section 37-106-9, Mississippi  
14 Code of 1972, which shall set the dates and deadlines for applying  
15 for an award under this section. The board shall establish such  
16 rules and regulations as it deems necessary and proper to carry  
17 out the purposes and intent of this act.

18 (2) The college or university shall approve grants to  
19 part-time freshmen, sophomore, junior and senior Mississippi  
20 residents who meet the general requirements for student  
21 eligibility as provided in subsection (4) of this section.

22 (3) The award shall be applied to tuition, books, materials  
23 and fees not to exceed Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) per  
24 semester for students attending state institutions of higher  
25 learning in Mississippi, four-year regionally accredited,  
26 state-approved, nonprofit colleges and universities in  
27 Mississippi, public community or junior colleges in Mississippi,  
28 or regionally accredited, state-approved, nonprofit two-year or

29 four-year colleges in Mississippi, with an aggregate limit of One  
30 Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per student. Assistance payments  
31 shall be prorated based upon the number of credit hours in which  
32 the student is enrolled, to be determined by regulations  
33 established by the board.

34 (4) The general requirements for initial eligibility of  
35 students for Part-time Student Tuition Assistance Grants consist  
36 of the following:

37 (a) First-time acceptance for part-time enrollment at  
38 any state institution of higher learning or public community or  
39 junior college located in Mississippi, or any regionally  
40 accredited, state-approved, nonprofit four- or two-year college or  
41 university located in Mississippi as listed in paragraph (d) of  
42 this subsection (4);

43 (b) Application is for fall or spring semester and not  
44 a summer session;

45 (c) Recipient must be able to demonstrate that courses  
46 taken will apply toward a first associate or first baccalaureate  
47 degree for purposes of job or workplace advancement;

48 (d) Must attend one (1) of the following institutions  
49 of higher learning: Alcorn State University, Delta State  
50 University, Jackson State University, Mississippi State  
51 University, Mississippi University for Women, Mississippi Valley  
52 State University, University of Mississippi, University of  
53 Southern Mississippi, Coahoma Community College, Copiah-Lincoln  
54 Community College, East Central Community College, East  
55 Mississippi Community College, Hinds Community College, Holmes  
56 Community College, Itawamba Community College, Jones County Junior  
57 College, Meridian Community College, Mississippi Delta Community  
58 College, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Northeast  
59 Mississippi Community College, Northwest Mississippi Community  
60 College, Pearl River Community College, Southwest Mississippi  
61 Community College, Belhaven College, Blue Mountain College,  
62 Millsaps College, Mississippi College, Rust College, Tougaloo  
63 College, William Carey College, Mary Holmes College, Magnolia  
64 Bible College and Wood College.

65 (5) By accepting a Part-time Student Tuition Assistance

66 Grant, the student is attesting to the accuracy, completeness and  
67 correctness of information provided to demonstrate the student's  
68 eligibility. Falsification of such information shall result in  
69 the denial of any pending grant and revocation of any award  
70 currently held to the extent that no further payments shall be  
71 made. Any student knowingly making false statements in order to  
72 receive a grant shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable, upon  
73 conviction thereof, by a fine of up to Ten Thousand Dollars  
74 (\$10,000.00), a prison sentence of up to one (1) year in the  
75 county jail, or both, and shall be required to return all  
76 Part-time Student Tuition Assistance Grants wrongfully obtained.

77 (6) Eligibility for renewal of Part-time Student Tuition  
78 Assistance Grants shall be evaluated at the end of each semester,  
79 or term, of each academic year. As a condition for renewal, a  
80 student shall:

81 (a) Make steady academic progress toward a certificate  
82 or degree, as outlined in the school Satisfactory Academic  
83 Progress Standards and certified by the institution's registrar.

84 (b) Have a cumulative grade point average of at least  
85 3.0 calculated on a 4.0 scale at the end of the first semester,  
86 and thereafter maintain such a cumulative grade point average as  
87 calculated at the end of each semester.

88 (7) Each student, each year, must complete a Free  
89 Application for Federal Student Aid form or a Statement of  
90 Certification as designed by the administering board to determine  
91 his/her eligibility for a Part-time Student Tuition Assistance  
92 Grant.

93 (8) (a) The amount of the Part-time Student Tuition  
94 Assistance Grant awarded to any one (1) student, up to the maximum  
95 amount provided in subsection (3) of this section, shall be the  
96 difference of the student's cost of attendance at his accredited  
97 college of choice and the amount of federal aid such student may  
98 receive, not to supplant but to supplement the amount of any

99 federal aid awarded to the student. Cost of attendance is the  
100 tuition and fees of the applicable institution plus an allowance  
101 for books and materials.

102 (b) Payment of the Part-time Student Tuition Assistance  
103 Grant shall be made payable to the recipient and the educational  
104 institution and mailed directly to the institution, to be applied  
105 first to tuition.

106 (9) In order for an institution to remain eligible for its  
107 students to participate in the Part-time Student Tuition  
108 Assistance Grant Program, the institution shall comply with the  
109 following requirements:

110 (a) A complete and accurate roster of the eligibility  
111 status of each awarded student shall be made to the board for each  
112 term, semester or quarter of the academic year the student  
113 receives a Part-time Student Tuition Assistance Grant.

114 (b) The institution is required to make refunds to the  
115 Part-time Student Tuition Assistance Grant Fund for any funds  
116 which have not been disbursed to the recipient, in the case of  
117 students who have received a grant but who terminate enrollment  
118 during the academic term, semester or quarter of the academic year  
119 if an institution's refund policies permit a student to receive a  
120 refund in such instance. The recipient shall be responsible for  
121 the refund of any funds which have been disbursed by the  
122 institution in such instance.

123 (c) The board may conduct its own annual audits of any  
124 institution participating in the Part-time Student Tuition  
125 Assistance Grant Program. The board may suspend or revoke an  
126 institution's eligibility to receive future monies under the  
127 program if it finds that the institution has not complied with the  
128 provisions of this act.

129 (10) No student may receive a Part-time Student Tuition  
130 Assistance Grant for more than the equivalent semesters or  
131 quarters required to complete one (1) degree or certificate

132 program per institution.

133       (11) Subject to the availability of funds specifically  
134 appropriated therefor, it is the intent of the Legislature to  
135 fully fund grant awards to eligible students as follows: Program  
136 funding level shall be capped at one thousand (1,000) students in  
137 Fiscal Year 2000 with an additional one thousand (1,000) students  
138 added each fiscal year until four thousand (4,000) students are  
139 enrolled in the program. If funds are insufficient to fully fund  
140 grant awards to eligible students, grant awards shall be prorated  
141 among all eligible students. No student shall receive any  
142 combination of student financial aid in excess of the cost of  
143 attendance as defined in subsection (8)(a).

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