

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Universities and  
Colleges

SENATE BILL NO. 2576

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE ALL STUDENTS IN PUBLIC UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS  
2 OF EDUCATION TO COMPLETE TWO COURSES IN MULTICULTURAL  
3 UNDERSTANDING; TO REQUIRE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE  
4 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING TO PRESCRIBE THE CURRICULUM FOR  
5 SUCH COURSEWORK; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 SECTION 1. (1) All students attending a college of  
8 education in any public institution of higher learning in  
9 Mississippi shall complete two (2) courses in multicultural  
10 understanding prior to graduation. Courses in multicultural  
11 understanding shall be in two (2) categories: cross-cultural  
12 studies and diversity in Western experience. Each such student  
13 shall complete nine (9) hours credit from each category.

14 (2) The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher  
15 Learning, with the assistance of the Commission on Teacher and  
16 Administrator Education, Certification and Development, shall  
17 prescribe the courses which are approved to comply with the  
18 requirements of this act. Such coursework in multicultural  
19 understanding shall be approved in the following areas:

- 20 Area I - Communications
- 21 Area II - History
- 22 Area III - Social Studies
- 23 Area IV - Humanities
- 24 Area V - Natural Science
- 25 Area VI - Fine and Performing Arts

26 (3) The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher  
27 Learning shall require the Multicultural Understanding Curriculum

28 in all public colleges of education beginning with the 2000-2001  
29 school year.

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