

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

MR. SPEAKER AND MR. PRESIDENT:

We, the undersigned conferees, have had under consideration the amendments to the following entitled **BILL**:

H.B. No. 1051: College tuition program for students in financial need; increase annual income allowed.

We, therefore, respectfully submit the following report and recommendation:

1. That the Senate recede from its Amendment No. 1.
2. That the House and Senate adopt the following amendment:

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. Section 37-157-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

37-157-1. (1) The tuition at any institution of higher education in the state shall be paid by the state on behalf of any student who enrolls in such a school to pursue an academic undergraduate degree, who applies for the payment thereof, and who meets all of the following qualifications:

(a) Actual residence in Mississippi during the twenty-four (24) months immediately preceding university enrollment. For the purposes of this paragraph, residency shall be demonstrated by proof of the following as required by the administering agency:

(i) If registered to vote, being registered in Mississippi.

(ii) If licensed to drive a motor vehicle, being in possession of a Mississippi driver's license.

(iii) If owning a motor vehicle located within Mississippi, being in possession of Mississippi registration for that vehicle.

(iv) If earning an income, having filed a Mississippi state income tax return and having complied with state income tax laws and regulations.

(b) Having a parent or guardian who is a domiciliary of

Mississippi.

(c) Graduation from high school within the two (2) years preceding the application with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 calculated on a 4.0 scale.

(d) Successful completion of seventeen and one-half (17-1/2) units of high school course work (Grade 9 level or higher) which constitutes a core curriculum and meets standards for admission to the desired college or university. The core curriculum is defined as follows:

(i) English I, II, III and IV (four (4) units).

(ii) Algebra I and II (two (2) units).

(iii) Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus or comparable Advanced Mathematics (one (1) unit).

(iv) Biology (one (1) unit).

(v) Chemistry (one (1) unit).

(vi) Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Biology II, Chemistry II or Physics (one (1) unit).

(vii) American History (one (1) unit).

(viii) World History, World Cultures, Western Civilization or World Geography (one (1) unit).

(ix) Civics and/or Economics (one (1) unit).

(x) Fine Arts Survey (one (1) unit; or substitute two (2) units of performance courses in music, dance or theater; or substitute two (2) units of studio art courses).

(xi) Foreign Language (two (2) units in a single language).

(xii) Computer Science, Computer Literacy or Data Processing (one-half (1/2) unit).

(xiii) Electives from the above (one (1) unit).

(e) Having a composite score on the American College Test of at least twenty (20) on the 1989 version or an equivalent concordant value on an enhanced version of such test.

(f) Having no criminal record, except for misdemeanor traffic violations.

65 (g) Being in financial need.

66 (2) For purposes of this section:

67 (a) "Institution of Higher Education" shall mean any of
68 the following institutions of higher learning or community or
69 junior colleges located in Mississippi: Alcorn State University,
70 Delta State University, Jackson State University, Mississippi
71 State University, Mississippi University for Women, Mississippi
72 Valley State University, University of Mississippi, University of
73 Southern Mississippi, Coahoma Community College, Copiah-Lincoln
74 Community College, East Central Community College, East
75 Mississippi Community College, Hinds Community College, Holmes
76 Community College, Itawamba Community College, Jones County Junior
77 College, Meridian Community College, Mississippi Delta Community
78 College, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Northeast
79 Mississippi Community College, Northwest Mississippi Community
80 College, Pearl River Community College, Southwest Mississippi
81 Community College, Belhaven College, Blue Mountain College,
82 Millsaps College, Mississippi College, Rust College, Tougaloo
83 College, William Carey College, Mary Holmes College, Magnolia
84 Bible College and Wood College.

85 (b) "Tuition" shall mean the semester or trimester or
86 term charges and all required fees imposed by an institution of
87 higher education as a condition of enrollment by all
88 students. * * * However, * * * for a two-year nonpublic
89 institution of higher education defined in paragraph (a), the
90 tuition payments shall not exceed the average charges and fees
91 required by all of the two-year public institutions of higher
92 education defined in paragraph (a), and for a four-year nonpublic
93 institution of higher education defined in paragraph (a), the
94 tuition payments shall not exceed the average charges and fees
95 required by all of the four-year public institutions of higher
96 education defined in paragraph (a).

97 (3) The tuition at any institution of higher education in
98 the state shall be paid by the state on behalf of any student who
99 enrolls in such a school to pursue an academic undergraduate or

associate degree, who applies for the payment thereof, and who meets the qualifications enumerated in paragraphs (a), (b), (f) and (g) of subsection (1) but who fails to meet one of the particular requirements established by paragraph (c), (d) or (e) of subsection (1) by an amount of ten percent (10%) or less.

(4) To maintain continued state payment of tuition, once enrolled in an institution of higher education, a student shall meet all of the following requirements:

(a) Make steady academic progress toward a degree, earning not less than the minimum number of hours of credit required for full-time standing in each academic period requiring such enrollment;

(b) Maintain continuous enrollment for not less than two (2) semesters or three (3) quarters in each successive academic year, unless granted an exception for cause by the administering agency;

(c) Have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 calculated on a 4.0 scale at the end of the first academic year and thereafter maintain such a cumulative grade point average as evaluated at the end of each academic year;

(d) Have no criminal record, except for misdemeanor traffic violations; and

(e) Be found to be in financial need.

(5) The provisions of this chapter shall be administered by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning in conjunction with the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges. The board may provide by rule for all matters necessary for the implementation of this chapter.

(6) By rule, the board shall provide for:

(a) A mechanism for informing all students of the availability of the assistance provided pursuant to this chapter early enough in their schooling that a salutary motivational effect is possible.

(b) Applications, forms, financial audit procedures, eligibility and other program audit procedures and other matters

related to efficient operation.

(c) A procedure for waiver through the 1996-1997 academic year of the program eligibility requirement for successful completion of a specified core curriculum upon proper documentation by the applicant that failure to comply with such requirement is due solely to the fact that the required course or courses were not available to the applicant at the school attended.

(7) An applicant shall be found to be in financial need if:

(a) The family has one (1) child under the age of twenty-one (21), and the two-year average annual adjusted gross income of the family is less than Thirty-six Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$36,500.00); or

(b) The family has a two-year average annual adjusted gross income of less than Thirty-six Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$36,500.00) plus Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for each additional child under the age of twenty-one (21).

The two-year average annual adjusted gross income of the family shall be verified by Internal Revenue Service returns or by certified affidavits in cases of income that cannot be verified by such returns.

As used in this subsection, the term "family" for an unemancipated applicant means the applicant, the applicant's parents, and other children under age twenty-one (21) of the applicant's parents. The term "family" for an emancipated applicant means the applicant, an applicant's spouse, and any children under age twenty-one (21) of the applicant and spouse.

(8) An appropriation of funds may annually be made to the board sufficient to cover, in addition to any other available funds, the costs of tuition required to be paid, both initial and continuing, for the coming academic year. All such payments shall be made directly to the institution to which such tuition is due after notice to the school that the state shall pay the tuition of a student and after notice from the school that the student has actually enrolled.

170 (9) The board may seek, accept and expend funds from any
171 source, including private business, industry, foundations and
172 other groups as well as any federal or other governmental funding
173 available for this purpose.

174 (10) No student shall receive a grant pursuant to this
175 chapter in an amount greater than the tuition charged by the
176 school. The student must apply for a federal grant prior to
177 receiving state funds.

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

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE:

X
Charles L. Young

X
Norma Bourdeaux

X
Ed Perry

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE:

X
Hillman Terome Frazier

X
Terry C. Burton

X
Alan Nunnelee