

By: Young

To: Universities and  
Colleges

HOUSE BILL NO. 31  
(As Passed the House)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 37-101-13, 37-29-1 AND 37-29-63,  
2 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE INSTITUTIONS OF  
3 HIGHER LEARNING AND COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES TO OFFER ANY  
4 ACADEMIC OR VOCATIONAL TRAINING COURSE OR PROGRAM OF STUDY WHICH  
5 WOULD HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT UPON THE ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF  
6 MISSISSIPPI; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 SECTION 1. Section 37-101-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
9 amended as follows:

10 37-101-13. It shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees of  
11 State Institutions of Higher Learning to begin immediately a  
12 comprehensive study of the role and scope of all of the various  
13 institutions under its jurisdiction, including a detailed study of  
14 the programs of study, degrees and courses offered. Following the  
15 completion of such study, the board shall make such adjustments as  
16 may be found to be necessary in the programs of the various  
17 institutions, to the end that the broadest possible educational  
18 opportunities shall be offered to the citizens of this state  
19 without inefficient and needless duplication. The board shall,  
20 through such officers of the board and through such procedures as  
21 it shall see fit to establish, exercise continuing jurisdiction  
22 and control over the establishment of new courses of study, new  
23 departments and new functions and activities in each institution  
24 so that the growth and development of the program of higher  
25 education in the state shall proceed in an orderly and rational  
26 manner, inefficient and needless duplication may be avoided, and  
27 new expanded programs will be undertaken only as the same may  
28 become justified, based upon objective criteria to be established

29 by the board. The board shall authorize any institution under its  
30 jurisdiction to offer any academic or vocational training course  
31 or program of study, the teaching of which, in the board's  
32 determination, would have a positive impact upon industry and the  
33 economic interests of the State of Mississippi. In carrying out  
34 the purposes of this section, particular attention shall be given  
35 to the extension programs of the various institutions. The board,  
36 in conjunction with the chancellor and presidents of the  
37 institutions of higher learning, shall take such steps as may be  
38 necessary to improve and coordinate such programs and shall  
39 exercise such direct control over the establishment, organization,  
40 operation and granting of credit for such programs as may be  
41 necessary to accomplish such purposes.

42 SECTION 2. Section 37-29-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
43 amended as follows:

44 37-29-1. (1) The creation, establishment, maintenance and  
45 operation of community and junior colleges is authorized. From  
46 and after May 1, 1998, community and junior colleges may admit  
47 students if they have earned one (1) unit less than the number of  
48 units required for high school graduation established by State  
49 Board of Education policy or have earned a General Education  
50 Diploma (GED) in courses correlated to those of senior colleges or  
51 professional schools. They shall offer education and training  
52 preparatory for occupations such as agriculture, industry,  
53 business, homemaking and for other occupations on the  
54 semi-professional and vocational-technical level. The community  
55 and junior colleges may offer any academic or vocational training  
56 course or program of study, the teaching of which, in the  
57 determination of the board of trustees of the community or junior  
58 college district, would have a positive impact upon industry and  
59 the economic interest of the State of Mississippi. They may offer  
60 courses and services to students regardless of their previous  
61 educational attainment or further academic plans.

62 (2) The boards of trustees of the community and junior  
63 college districts are authorized to establish a dual enrollment  
64 program under which high school students meeting the requirements  
65 prescribed herein may enroll at a community or junior college

66 while they are still attending high school and enrolled in high  
67 school courses. Students may be admitted to enroll in community  
68 or junior college courses under the dual enrollment program if  
69 they meet the following recommended admission requirements:

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

72 (b) Students must have a minimum ACT composite score of  
73 twenty-one (21) or the equivalent SAT score;

74 (c) Students must have a 3.0 grade point average on a  
75 4.0 scale, or better, on all high school courses, as documented by  
76 an official high school transcript; a home-schooled student must  
77 submit a transcript prepared by a parent, guardian or custodian  
78 with a signed, sworn affidavit to meet the requirement of this  
79 paragraph (c); and

80 (d) Students must have an unconditional written  
81 recommendation from their high school principal and/or guidance  
82 counselor. A home-schooled student must submit a parent, legal  
83 guardian or custodian's written recommendation to meet the  
84 requirement of this paragraph (d).

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

90 Students admitted in the dual enrollment program shall be  
91 counted for minimum program funding purposes in the average daily  
92 attendance of the public school district in which they attend high  
93 school. Any additional transportation required by a student to  
94 participate in the dual enrollment program shall be the  
95 responsibility of the parents or legal guardians of the student.  
96 Grades and college credits earned by students admitted to the dual  
97 enrollment program shall be recorded on the college transcript at  
98 the community or junior college where the student attends classes.

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

102 (3) The boards of trustees of the community and junior  
103 college districts are authorized to establish an early admission  
104 program under which applicants meeting all requirements prescribed  
105 in subsection (2)(a), (c) and (d) and have a minimum ACT composite  
106 score of twenty-six (26) or the equivalent SAT score may be  
107 admitted as full-time college students if the principal or  
108 guidance counsellor of the student recommends in writing that it  
109 is in the best educational interest of the student. Such  
110 recommendation shall also state that the student's age will not  
111 keep him from being a successful full-time college student.  
112 Students admitted in the early admission program shall not be  
113 counted for minimum program funding purposes in the average daily  
114 attendance of the school district in which they reside, and  
115 transportation required by a student to participate in the early  
116 admission program shall be the responsibility of the parents or  
117 legal guardians of the student. Grades and college credits earned  
118 by students admitted to the early admission program shall be  
119 recorded on the college transcript at the community or junior  
120 college where the student attends classes, and may be released to  
121 another institution or used for college graduation requirements  
122 only after the student has successfully completed one (1) full  
123 semester of course work.

124 (4) In addition to the foregoing, the community and junior  
125 colleges shall provide, through courses or other acceptable  
126 educational measures, the general education necessary to  
127 individuals and groups which will tend to make them capable of  
128 living satisfactory lives consistent with the ideals of a  
129 democratic society.

130 SECTION 3. Section 37-29-63, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
131 amended as follows:

132           37-29-63. The president of any junior college shall have the  
133 power to recommend to the board of trustees all teachers to be  
134 employed in the district. He may remove or suspend any member of  
135 the faculty subject to the approval of the trustees. He shall be  
136 the general manager of all fiscal and administrative affairs of  
137 the district with full authority to select, direct, employ and  
138 discharge any and all employees other than teachers; however, the  
139 board may make provisions and establish policies for leave for  
140 faculty members and other key personnel.

141           The president shall have the authority, subject to the  
142 provisions of Sections 37-29-1 through 37-29-273 and the approval  
143 of the trustees, to arrange and survey courses of study, fix  
144 schedules, and establish and enforce rules and discipline for the  
145 governing of teachers and students. The president may recommend  
146 to the board of trustees any academic or vocational training  
147 course or program of study, the teaching of which, in the  
148 president's determination, would have a positive impact upon  
149 industry and the economic interests of the State of Mississippi.  
150 He shall be the general custodian of the property of the district.

151           SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
152 and after July 1, 2000.