

By: Smith (35th)

To: Education;  
Appropriations

## HOUSE BILL NO. 1328

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR  
2 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS MAINTAINING A 3.00 GRADE  
3 POINT AVERAGE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. (1) There is established the Mississippi  
6 Community and Junior College Scholarship Program for eligible  
7 students enrolled in the state-supported community and junior  
8 colleges of this state.

9 (2) The tuition of any full-time student who is enrolled in  
10 a state-supported community or junior college in the State of  
11 Mississippi who has a cumulative grade point average of at least  
12 3.00 calculated on a 4.00 scale upon completion of no less than  
13 twelve (12) semester hours during the student's first semester  
14 shall be paid by the state on behalf of the student. The maximum  
15 award that may be made under this scholarship program may not  
16 exceed the cost of tuition at the community or junior college in  
17 which the student is enrolled. Students may receive awards for a  
18 maximum of three (3) semesters. However, a student may not  
19 receive awards under this program for greater than sixty-three  
20 (63) semester hours, and any student who has completed an  
21 associate or baccalaureate degree is not eligible to participate  
22 in the program. Scholarships awarded to nonresidents of the state  
23 may not include any out-of-state tuition assessed by the community  
24 or junior college. For purposes of this section, "tuition" means  
25 the semester charges and all required fees imposed by a community  
26 or junior college as a condition of enrollment.

27           (3) As a condition for renewal of a scholarship, a student  
28 must maintain continuous enrollment in a community or junior  
29 college and must make steady academic progress toward a  
30 certificate or associate degree, as certified by the community or  
31 junior college's registrar. However, the State Board for  
32 Community and Junior Colleges may grant an exception to the  
33 requirement for continuous enrollment in order to allow a student  
34 to participate in a cooperative, internship or foreign study  
35 program. Scholarship recipients must maintain a cumulative grade  
36 point average of at least 3.00 calculated on a 4.00 scale on all  
37 coursework completed. Eligibility for renewal of a scholarship  
38 shall be evaluated at the end of each semester.

39           (4) The State Board for Community and Junior Colleges shall  
40 be the administering agency of this scholarship program and shall  
41 promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out the  
42 purposes and intent of this section.

43           (5) Scholarship payments under the Mississippi Community and  
44 Junior College Scholarship Program shall be payable to the  
45 recipient and the community or junior college in which the student  
46 is enrolled and shall be mailed directly to the community or  
47 junior college.

48           (6) It is the intent of the Legislature to fully fund  
49 scholarships to eligible students under this program. If funds  
50 are insufficient to fully fund scholarships to all eligible  
51 applicants, the board shall award the scholarships to first-time  
52 students on a first-come, first-served basis; however, priority  
53 consideration must be given to persons previously receiving awards  
54 under the program who are making steady academic progress toward  
55 completion of a certificate program or associate degree.

56           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
57 and after July 1, 2000.