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To: Universities and  
Colleges; Rules

## HOUSE BILL NO. 1497

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A STUDY COMMITTEE ON CREATING A  
2 MISSISSIPPI HELPING OUTSTANDING PUPILS EDUCATIONALLY (MHOPE)  
3 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; TO DIRECT THE STUDY COMMITTEE TO SUBMIT A  
4 WRITTEN REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE  
5 LEGISLATURE BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2000; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 SECTION 1. (1) There is established a Study Committee on  
8 Creating a Mississippi Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally  
9 (MHOPE) Scholarship Program to study and make recommendations to  
10 the Legislature on the establishment and implementation of a  
11 program of free college tuition in the State of Mississippi for  
12 highly achieving Mississippi students. The committee shall make a  
13 report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature  
14 before December 1, 2000.

15 (2) The committee shall examine the Helping Outstanding  
16 Pupils Educationally (HOPE) scholarship program in the State of  
17 Georgia and similar programs that have been implemented in other  
18 states in order to gain a full understanding of such programs. In  
19 its report to the Legislature, the committee shall include  
20 recommended modifications, if any, which should be made to the  
21 Georgia HOPE program for MHOPE and suggestions on the possible  
22 integration of currently existing scholarship and tuition  
23 assistance programs in Mississippi with MHOPE. The report must  
24 include a fiscal note on the projected costs of MHOPE, and the  
25 committee shall identify possible revenue streams for funding the  
26 program.

27 (3) The study committee shall be composed of the following

28 twenty-three (23) members:

29 (a) The Chairmen of the House Universities and  
30 Colleges, Education and Appropriations Committees;

31 (b) Two (2) members of the House of Representatives  
32 appointed by the Speaker of the House, or their designees from the  
33 House membership;

34 (c) The Chairmen of the Senate Universities and  
35 Colleges, Education and Appropriations Committees;

36 (d) Two (2) members of the Senate appointed by the  
37 Lieutenant Governor, or their designees from the Senate  
38 membership;

39 (e) The Governor or his designee;

40 (f) The Commissioner of Higher Education or his  
41 designee;

42 (g) The Executive Director of the State Board for  
43 Community and Junior Colleges or his designee;

44 (h) The State Superintendent of Public Education or his  
45 designee;

46 (i) The President of the Board of Trustees of State  
47 Institutions of Higher Learning or his designee from the board;

48 (j) The President of State Board for Community and  
49 Junior Colleges or his designee from the board;

50 (k) The State Treasurer or his designee;

51 (l) The president or chancellor of one (1) of the three  
52 (3) state institutions of higher learning having the highest  
53 student enrollment in the state, appointed by the Board of  
54 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning;

55 (m) The president of one (1) of the historically black  
56 state institutions of higher learning in the state, appointed by  
57 the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning;

58 (n) The president of one (1) of the three (3) state  
59 institutions of higher learning having the lowest student  
60 enrollment in the state, appointed by the Board of Trustees of

61 State Institutions of Higher Learning;

62 (o) The president of a public community or junior  
63 college in this state, appointed by the State Board for Community  
64 and Junior Colleges;

65 (p) A president of an accredited, private four-year  
66 institution of higher learning in the state, appointed by the  
67 membership of any association representing such institutions in  
68 the state; and

69 (q) A representative of a local district of Rotary  
70 International or his designee.

71 In making their legislative appointments, the Lieutenant  
72 Governor and Speaker of the House shall endeavor to achieve a  
73 diverse representation, with all geographical areas of the state  
74 being represented on the committee.

75 (4) If any chairman of a legislative committee serving on  
76 the study committee is unable to attend any meeting of the  
77 committee, the vice chairman of the respective committee may  
78 attend and vote at such meeting. Appointments shall be made  
79 within thirty (30) days after passage of this act. Within fifteen  
80 (15) days thereafter, on a day to be designated jointly by the  
81 Speaker of the House and the Lieutenant Governor, the study  
82 committee shall meet and organize by selecting from its membership  
83 a chairman and vice chairman. The vice chairman shall serve as  
84 secretary and shall be responsible for keeping all records of the  
85 study committee. A majority of the members of the study committee  
86 shall constitute a quorum. In the selection of its officers and  
87 the adoption of rules, resolutions and reports, an affirmative  
88 vote of a majority of the study committee is required. All  
89 members shall be notified in writing of all meetings, and such  
90 notices must be mailed at least five (5) days before the date on  
91 which a meeting is to be held.

92 (5) Subject to the availability of funds, for attending  
93 meetings of the study committee, members who are not legislators

94 shall be compensated at the per diem rate authorized by Section  
95 25-3-69, Mississippi Code of 1972, and shall be reimbursed in  
96 accordance with Section 25-3-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, for  
97 mileage and actual expenses incurred in attending meetings of the  
98 committee. Each legislative member of the committee shall be paid  
99 from the contingent expense fund of his respective house per diem  
100 in the amount authorized by Section 25-3-69, Mississippi Code of  
101 1972, and a mileage allowance and an expense allowance in the  
102 amount authorized by Section 5-1-47, Mississippi Code of 1972.  
103 However, no per diem, mileage allowance or expense allowance may  
104 be paid for attending meetings of the committee while the  
105 Legislature is in session, and no per diem, mileage allowance or  
106 expense allowance may be paid without prior approval of the proper  
107 committee in the member's respective house. Any member who is  
108 also a state employee shall not be eligible to receive per diem  
109 compensation. No study committee member may incur per diem,  
110 travel or other expenses unless previously authorized by vote, at  
111 a meeting of the study committee, which action must be recorded in  
112 the official minutes of the meeting. Nonlegislative members may  
113 be paid from any funds made available to the study committee for  
114 that purpose.

115 (6) The study committee may employ consultants or staff and  
116 may utilize clerical and legal staff employed by the Board of  
117 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, the Office of  
118 the Governor, the Legislature and any other staff assistance made  
119 available to the committee.

120 (7) Funding for the study committee may be provided from any  
121 funds that may be appropriated by the Legislature for the expenses  
122 of the study committee. The study committee may accept money from  
123 any source, public or private, to be expended in implementing its  
124 duties under this act.

125 (8) Upon presentation of its report to the Legislature  
126 before the 2001 Regular Session, the study committee shall be

127 dissolved.

128           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
129 and after passage.