

By: Senator(s) Michel, White (29th), Hewes,
Chaney, King

To: Universities and
Colleges; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2664

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, 2001; 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, 2001.

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 2002 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 its passage.