

By: Representative Banks

To: Universities and  
Colleges

HOUSE BILL NO. 925

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-101-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO REQUIRE THE STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING TO ADMIT  
3 STUDENTS GRADUATING IN THE TOP TEN PERCENT OF THEIR HIGH SCHOOL  
4 CLASS WITHOUT THEIR TAKING AN ENTRANCE EXAMINATION; AND FOR  
5 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-101-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 amended as follows:

9 37-101-15. (a) The Board of Trustees of State Institutions  
10 of Higher Learning shall succeed to and continue to exercise  
11 control of all records, books, papers, equipment, and supplies,  
12 and all lands, buildings, and other real and personal property  
13 belonging to or assigned to the use and benefit of the board of  
14 trustees formerly supervising and controlling the institutions of  
15 higher learning named in Section 37-101-1. The board shall have  
16 and exercise control of the use, distribution and disbursement of  
17 all funds, appropriations and taxes, now and hereafter in  
18 possession, levied and collected, received, or appropriated for  
19 the use, benefit, support, and maintenance or capital outlay  
20 expenditures of the institutions of higher learning, including the  
21 authorization of employees to sign vouchers for the disbursement  
22 of funds for the various institutions, except where otherwise  
23 specifically provided by law.

24 (b) The board shall have general supervision of the affairs  
25 of all the institutions of higher learning, including the  
26 departments and the schools thereof. The board shall have the  
27 power in its discretion to determine who shall be privileged to  
28 enter, to remain in, or to graduate therefrom. However, the board



29 shall require all institutions of higher learning to admit  
30 students who graduate from a public school in Mississippi in the  
31 top ten percent (10%) of their high school class without such  
32 students taking an American College Test (ACT) or Scholastic  
33 Aptitude Test (SAT) or any other entrance examination. The board  
34 shall have general supervision of the conduct of libraries and  
35 laboratories, the care of dormitories, buildings, and grounds; the  
36 business methods and arrangement of accounts and records; the  
37 organization of the administrative plan of each institution; and  
38 all other matters incident to the proper functioning of the  
39 institutions. The board shall have the authority to establish  
40 minimum standards of achievement as a prerequisite for entrance  
41 into any of the institutions under its jurisdiction, which  
42 standards need not be uniform between the various institutions and  
43 which may be based upon such criteria as the board may establish.

44 (c) The board shall exercise all the powers and prerogatives  
45 conferred upon it under the laws establishing and providing for  
46 the operation of the several institutions herein specified. The  
47 board shall adopt such bylaws and regulations from time to time as  
48 it deems expedient for the proper supervision and control of the  
49 several institutions of higher learning, insofar as such bylaws  
50 and regulations are not repugnant to the Constitution and laws,  
51 and not inconsistent with the object for which these institutions  
52 were established. The board shall have power and authority to  
53 prescribe rules and regulations for policing the campuses and all  
54 buildings of the respective institutions, to authorize the arrest  
55 of all persons violating on any campus any criminal law of the  
56 state, and to have such law violators turned over to the civil  
57 authorities.

58 (d) For all institutions specified herein, the board shall  
59 provide a uniform system of recording and of accounting approved  
60 by the State Department of Audit. The board shall annually  
61 prepare, or cause to be prepared, a budget for each institution of



62 higher learning for the succeeding year which must be prepared and  
63 in readiness for at least thirty (30) days before the convening of  
64 the regular session of the Legislature. All relationships and  
65 negotiations between the state Legislature and its various  
66 committees and the institutions named herein shall be carried on  
67 through the board of trustees. No official, employee or agent  
68 representing any of the separate institutions shall appear before  
69 the Legislature or any committee thereof except upon the written  
70 order of the board or upon the request of the Legislature or a  
71 committee thereof.

72 (e) For all institutions specified herein, the board shall  
73 prepare an annual report to the Legislature setting forth the  
74 disbursements of all monies appropriated to the respective  
75 institutions. Each report to the Legislature shall show how the  
76 money appropriated to the several institutions has been expended,  
77 beginning and ending with the fiscal years of the institutions,  
78 showing the name of each teacher, officer, and employee, and the  
79 salary paid each, and an itemized statement of each and every item  
80 of receipts and expenditures. Each report must be balanced, and  
81 must begin with the former balance. If any property belonging to  
82 the state or the institution is used for profit, the reports shall  
83 show the expense incurred in managing the property and the amount  
84 received therefrom. The reports shall also show a summary of the  
85 gross receipts and gross disbursements for each year and shall  
86 show the money on hand at the beginning of the fiscal period of  
87 the institution next preceding each session of the Legislature and  
88 the necessary amount of expense to be incurred from said date to  
89 January 1 following. The board shall keep the annual expenditures  
90 of each institution herein mentioned within the income derived  
91 from legislative appropriations and other sources, but in case of  
92 emergency arising from acts of providence, epidemics, fire or  
93 storm with the written approval of the Governor and by written  
94 consent of a majority of the Senators and of the Representatives



95 it may exceed the income. The board shall require a surety bond  
96 in a surety company authorized to do business in this state, of  
97 every employee who is the custodian of funds belonging to one or  
98 more of the institutions mentioned herein, which bond shall be in  
99 a sum to be fixed by the board in an amount that will properly  
100 safeguard the said funds, the premium for which shall be paid out  
101 of the funds appropriated for said institutions.

102 (f) The board shall have the power and authority to elect  
103 the heads of the various institutions of higher learning and to  
104 contract with all deans, professors, and other members of the  
105 teaching staff, and all administrative employees of said  
106 institutions for a term of not exceeding four (4) years. The  
107 board shall have the power and authority to terminate any such  
108 contract at any time for malfeasance, inefficiency, or  
109 contumacious conduct, but never for political reasons. It shall  
110 be the policy of the board to permit the executive head of each  
111 institution to nominate for election by the board all subordinate  
112 employees of the institution over which he presides. It shall be  
113 the policy of the board to elect all officials for a definite  
114 tenure of service and to reelect during the period of satisfactory  
115 service. The board shall have the power to make any adjustments  
116 it thinks necessary between the various departments and schools of  
117 any institution or between the different institutions.

118 (g) The board shall keep complete minutes and records of all  
119 proceedings which shall be open for inspection by any citizen of  
120 the state.

121 (h) The board shall have the power to contract, on a  
122 shared-savings, lease or lease-purchase basis, for energy  
123 efficiency services and/or equipment as prescribed in Section  
124 31-7-14, not to exceed ten (10) years.

125 (i) The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher  
126 Learning, for and on behalf of Jackson State University, is hereby  
127 authorized to convey by donation or otherwise easements across



128 portions of certain real estate located in the City of Jackson,  
129 Hinds County, Mississippi, for right-of-way required for the Metro  
130 Parkway Project.

131       **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
132 and after July 1, 2002.

