

By: Representative Warren

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1539

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-29-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 DELETE THE ACT SCORE REQUIREMENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SEEKING
3 ADMITTANCE UNDER A DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM TO A COMMUNITY OR
4 JUNIOR COLLEGE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-29-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 37-29-1. (1) The creation, establishment, maintenance and
9 operation of community and junior colleges is authorized. * * *
10 Community and junior colleges may admit students if they have
11 earned one (1) unit less than the number of units required for
12 high school graduation established by State Board of Education
13 policy or have earned a General Education Diploma (GED) in courses
14 correlated to those of senior colleges or professional schools.
15 They shall offer education and training preparatory for
16 occupations such as agriculture, industry, business, homemaking
17 and for other occupations on the semi-professional and
18 vocational-technical level. They may offer courses and services
19 to students regardless of their previous educational attainment or
20 further academic plans.

21 (2) The boards of trustees of the community and junior
22 college districts are authorized to establish a dual enrollment
23 program under which high school students meeting the requirements
24 prescribed in this section may enroll at a community or junior
25 college while they are still attending high school and enrolled in
26 high school courses. Students may be admitted to enroll in
27 community or junior college courses under the dual enrollment



28 program if they meet the following recommended admission
29 requirements:

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

32 * * *

33 (b) Students must have a 3.0 grade point average on a
34 4.0 scale, or better, on all high school courses, as documented by
35 an official high school transcript; a home-schooled student must
36 submit a transcript prepared by a parent, guardian or custodian
37 with a signed, sworn affidavit to meet the requirement of this
38 paragraph * * *; and

39 (c) Students must have an unconditional written
40 recommendation from their high school principal and/or guidance
41 counselor. A home-schooled student must submit a parent, legal
42 guardian or custodian's written recommendation to meet the
43 requirement of this paragraph * * *.

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

49 Students admitted in the dual enrollment program shall be
50 counted for adequate education program funding purposes in the
51 average daily attendance of the public school district in which
52 they attend high school. Any additional transportation required
53 by a student to participate in the dual enrollment program shall
54 be the responsibility of the parents or legal guardians of the
55 student. Grades and college credits earned by students admitted to
56 the dual enrollment program shall be recorded on the college
57 transcript at the community or junior college where the student
58 attends classes. The transcript of such college course work may
59 be released to another institution or used for college graduation



60 requirements only after the student has received his high school
61 diploma.

62 (3) The boards of trustees of the community and junior
63 college districts are authorized to establish an early admission
64 program under which applicants meeting all requirements prescribed
65 in subsection (2) (a) through (c) * * * and having a minimum ACT
66 composite score of twenty-six (26) or the equivalent SAT score may
67 be admitted as full-time college students if the principal or
68 guidance counsellor of the student recommends in writing that it
69 is in the best educational interest of the student. Such
70 recommendation shall also state that the student's age will not
71 keep him from being a successful full-time college student.
72 Students admitted in the early admission program shall not be
73 counted for adequate education program funding purposes in the
74 average daily attendance of the school district in which they
75 reside, and transportation required by a student to participate in
76 the early admission program shall be the responsibility of the
77 parents or legal guardians of the student. Grades and college
78 credits earned by students admitted to the early admission program
79 shall be recorded on the college transcript at the community or
80 junior college where the student attends classes, and may be
81 released to another institution or used for college graduation
82 requirements only after the student has successfully completed one
83 (1) full semester of course work.

84 (4) * * * The community and junior colleges shall provide,
85 through courses or other acceptable educational measures, the
86 general education necessary to individuals and groups which will
87 tend to make them capable of living satisfactory lives consistent
88 with the ideals of a democratic society.

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

