HOUSE BILL NO. 1539

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

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

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

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

(2) The boards of trustees of the community and junior
college districts are authorized to establish a dual enrollment
program under which high school students meeting the requirements
prescribed in this section may enroll at a community or junior
college while they are still attending high school and enrolled in
high school courses. Students may be admitted to enroll in
community or junior college courses under the dual enrollment
program if they meet the following recommended admission requirements:

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

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

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

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

Students admitted in the dual enrollment program shall be counted for adequate education program funding purposes in the average daily attendance of the public school district in which they attend high school. Any additional transportation required by a student to participate in the dual enrollment program shall be the responsibility of the parents or legal guardians of the student. Grades and college credits earned by students admitted to the dual enrollment program shall be recorded on the college transcript at the community or junior college where the student attends classes. The transcript of such college course work may be released to another institution or used for college graduation.
requirements only after the student has received his high school diploma.

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

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

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