

By: Senator(s) Burton

To: Universities and Colleges

SENATE BILL NO. 2620

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-101-241, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO DEFINE THE AUTHORITY OF THE MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON COLLEGE  
3 ACCREDITATION AND TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSION TO SEEK AN  
4 INJUNCTION TO ENJOIN UNAPPROVED COURSE OFFERINGS; AND FOR RELATED  
5 PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-101-241, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
8 amended as follows:

9 37-101-241. (1) There is hereby created the Commission on  
10 College Accreditation. Said commission shall be composed of the  
11 Executive Director of the State Board of Community and Junior  
12 Colleges, the Commissioner of Higher Education, or their  
13 designees, and two (2) additional members, one (1) of whom shall  
14 be selected by the foregoing two (2) members and who shall  
15 represent the private colleges within the state, and one (1) of  
16 whom shall be selected by the Mississippi Association of Colleges.  
17 The latter two (2) members shall each serve for a term of three  
18 (3) years.

19 (2) The commission shall meet and organize by electing from  
20 among its membership a chairman, a vice chairman and a secretary.  
21 The commission shall keep full and complete minutes and records of  
22 all its proceedings and actions.

23 (3) The commission shall have the power and authority, and  
24 it shall be its duty, to prepare an approved list of institutions  
25 or other entities which offer one or more post-secondary academic  
26 degrees and are domiciled, incorporated, doing business, or  
27 otherwise located in the State of Mississippi. Post-secondary  
28 academic degrees include, but are not limited to, associate,



29 bachelor, masters and doctorate degrees. \* \* \* The commission  
30 shall adopt standards which are in keeping with the best  
31 educational practices in accreditation and receive reports from  
32 the institutions seeking to be placed on the approved list.

33 (4) The above-described institutions or other entities,  
34 approved by the Commission or accredited by an accrediting body  
35 recognized by the United States Department of Education, shall be  
36 approved by the commission in order to grant diplomas of  
37 graduation, degrees or offer instruction. Bible Colleges and  
38 Theological Seminaries not already approved by the commission and  
39 the American Association of Bible Colleges or Association of  
40 Theological Schools, shall be approved annually, by the  
41 commission, in order to grant diplomas of graduation, degrees, or  
42 offer instruction.

43 \* \* \*

44 (5) The commission shall petition the chancery court of the  
45 county in which a person or agent offers one or more  
46 post-secondary academic degrees subject to the provisions of this  
47 chapter or advertises for the offering of such degrees without  
48 having first obtained approval by the commission, for an order  
49 enjoining such offering or advertising. The court may grant such  
50 injunctive relief upon a showing that the respondent named in the  
51 petition is offering or advertising one or more post-secondary  
52 academic degrees without having obtained prior approval of the  
53 commission. The Attorney General or the District Attorney of the  
54 district including the county in which such action is brought,  
55 shall, upon request of the commission, represent the commission in  
56 bringing any such action.

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

