SENATE BILL NO. 2622

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-29-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO DELETE CERTAIN MINIMUM STANDARDIZED TEST REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGE DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM; 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. From and after May 1, 1998, 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 herein 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 (b); 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 (c).

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 minimum 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), (b) and (c) and have 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 minimum 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) In addition to the foregoing, 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.