AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING FOR THE SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE OF FINANCIAL AID SCHOLARSHIP, LOAN AND GRANT PROGRAMS AND THE MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003.

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

SECTION 1. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State General Fund not otherwise appropriated, to the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning for the support and maintenance of financial aid scholarship, loan and grant programs authorized by law and administered by the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid and for support of the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2002, and ending June 30, 2003

$ 27,520,933.00

SECTION 2. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby authorized out of the proceeds derived from any federal funds, grants, donations, fees, or other special source funds which are collected by or otherwise become available for the support and maintenance of financial aid scholarship, loan and grant programs authorized by law and administered by the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid and for support of the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2002, and ending June 30, 2003

$ 8,574,340.00

SECTION 3. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby authorized for expenditure out of carryover funds in State Treasury Fund 325E, pursuant to Section 37-106-33,
Mississippi Code of 1972, for the support and maintenance of the
Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grant Program and the
Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant Program, for the fiscal year
beginning July 1, 2002, and ending June 30, 2003....................
.................................................. $ 648,561.00.

SECTION 4. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the Health
Care Expendable Fund not otherwise appropriated, to the Board of
Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning for the support
and maintenance of the Medical Education Loan/Scholarship Program
for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2002, and ending June 30,
2003.......................................... $ 400,000.00.

SECTION 5. Any transfers or escalations shall be made in
accordance with the terms, conditions, and procedures established
by law.

Provided, however, that none of the funds apportioned in this
act for the Out-of-State Educational Program shall be paid to or
for the benefit of any student who enters a school outside the
State of Mississippi for the first time, subsequent to July 1,
1982, in any discipline in the fields of medicine or dentistry.

SECTION 6. It is the intention of the Legislature that of
the funds appropriated under the provisions of Section 1, the
Board of Trustees of the State Institutions of Higher Learning
shall expend from the support of the out-of-state graduate and
professional studies program an amount not exceeding the funding
necessary, contingent upon the availability of qualified
applicants, for ten (10) new entering optometry students and the
number of returning optometry students who received funding under
the program during the preceding school year; for ten (10) new
entering chiropractic students, with not more than twenty-five
(25) chiropractic students overall; and seven (7) new entering
osteopathic medical students and the number of returning
osteopathic medical students who received funding under the
program during the preceding school year, for these courses of study.

SECTION 7. In the allocation of funds appropriated under the provisions of Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 among the student financial aid programs included herein, it is the intention of the Legislature that priority shall be given and funds shall be first allocated to all students eligible for financial aid under the provisions of Sections 37-107-1 through 37-107-7 and Sections 37-108-1 through 37-108-5, Mississippi Code of 1972.

SECTION 8. All funds provided for in this act shall be accounted for in a detailed statement showing when, to whom, and for what purpose applied, and this statement shall be submitted at the next regular session of the Legislature within ten (10) days after the convening thereof. A report of loans made and receipt of repayment of loans to the fund shall be reported. The amount of repayment that is in arrears shall also be included. Such report shall include the number of students at each institution receiving financial assistance and the amount of such assistance, and an estimate of the financial requirement of the various loan programs for the next year. No public or private institution of higher learning receiving funds under the respective provisions of this act, for the purpose of issuing scholarship grants or loans, shall issue any official transcripts for any persons who have any amount of repayment in arrears on that date such official transcript is requested.

Furthermore, all funds received and expended shall be reported and otherwise accounted for in accordance with the provisions of Section 37-143-21, Mississippi Code of 1972.

SECTION 9. It is the intention of the Legislature that the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2004 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2003 budget request process.
SECTION 10. Any funds appropriated pursuant to this act and paid as a fee to or deposited in a financial institution shall be in compliance with Section 109 of the Constitution of the State of Mississippi and Section 25-4-103, Mississippi Code of 1972.

SECTION 11. The money herein appropriated shall be paid by the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

SECTION 12. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2002.