AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-3-34, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO INCLUDE A JURIS DOCTORATE DEGREE, A MASTER'S DEGREE AND CPA CERTIFICATION TO THE LIST OF DEGREES AND CERTIFICATIONS WHICH QUALIFY ANY APPOINTIVE STATE AND DISTRICT OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES TO RECEIVE EDUCATIONAL BENCHMARKS FOR POSSESSION OR ATTAINMENT OF CERTAIN DEGREES OR CERTIFICATIONS; TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT THAT EDUCATIONAL BENCHMARKS BE JOB RELATED; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Section 25-3-34, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

25-3-34. (1) In addition to the salary provided in Section 25-3-33, any appointive state and district official and employee shall receive the award of an education benchmark as defined in State Personnel Board rules for the possession or attainment of any of the following:

(a) The Certified Public Manager designation;
(b) A Ph.D (Doctor of Philosophy) degree which is not required as a minimum qualification of the position;
(c) A J.D. (Juris Doctorate) degree which is not required as a minimum qualification of the position;
(d) A master's degree which is not required as a minimum qualification of the position;
(e) A C.P.A. (Certified Public Accountant) certification which is not required as a minimum qualification of the position;
(f) A certification, licensure or registration requiring the passage of an examination, which is not required as a minimum qualification of the position.
(2) No such official or employee may receive more than a total of three (3) eligible benchmarks.

(3) The State Personnel Board shall promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this section.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2003.