AN ACT TO REQUIRE ALL STUDENTS IN PUBLIC UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS OF EDUCATION TO COMPLETE TWO COURSES IN MULTICULTURAL UNDERSTANDING; TO REQUIRE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING TO PRESCRIBE THE CURRICULUM FOR SUCH COURSEWORK; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. (1) All students attending a college of education in any public institution of higher learning in Mississippi shall complete two (2) courses in multicultural understanding prior to graduation. Courses in multicultural understanding shall be in two (2) categories: cross-cultural studies and diversity in Western experience. Each such student shall complete nine (9) hours credit from each category.

(2) The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, with the assistance of the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Development, shall prescribe the courses which are approved to comply with the requirements of this act. Such coursework in multicultural understanding shall be approved in the following areas:

   Area I - Communications
   Area II - History
   Area III - Social Studies
   Area IV - Humanities
   Area V - Natural Science
   Area VI - Fine and Performing Arts

(3) The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning shall require the Multicultural Understanding Curriculum
in all public colleges of education beginning with the 2003-2004 school year.

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