

By: Representative Moak

To: Universities and
Colleges; Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 209

1 AN ACT TO PERMIT SENIOR CITIZENS WITH INCOMES BELOW
2 \$15,000.00 PER YEAR TO REGISTER AND ATTEND A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF
3 HIGHER LEARNING TUITION-FREE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section, the term "senior
6 citizen" means a person who is age sixty-five (65) or older.

7 (2) A senior citizen shall be permitted, under regulations
8 as may be prescribed by the Mississippi Board of Trustees of State
9 Institutions of Higher Learning:

10 (a) To register for and enroll in courses as a
11 full-time or part-time student for academic credit in any state
12 institution of higher learning in this state;

13 (b) To register for and audit courses offered for
14 academic credit in any state institution of higher learning in
15 this state; and

16 (c) To register for and enroll in courses not offered
17 for academic credit in any state institution of higher learning in
18 this state.

19 (3) In order to be eligible under this section, a senior
20 citizen must have had a taxable individual income not exceeding
21 Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) for Mississippi income tax
22 purposes for the year preceding the year in which enrollment is
23 sought.

24 (4) Senior citizens registering under the provisions of this
25 section shall pay no tuition or fees except fees established for
26 the purpose of paying for course materials, such as laboratory
27 fees, but shall be subject to the admission requirements of the

28 institution and a determination by the institution of its ability
29 to offer the course or courses for which the senior citizen
30 registers. The Mississippi Board of Trustees of State
31 Institutions of Higher Learning shall establish procedures to
32 ensure that tuition-paying students are accommodated in courses
33 before senior citizens registering under the provisions of this
34 section are enrolled. However, the state institutions of higher
35 learning may make individual exceptions to these procedures when
36 the senior citizen has completed seventy-five percent (75%) of the
37 requirements for a degree.

38 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
39 and after July 1, 2004.