

By: Representative Clark

To: Universities and
Colleges

HOUSE BILL NO. 904

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 75-76-34, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO AUTHORIZE THE STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING AND PUBLIC
3 COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES TO OFFER GAMING-RELATED COURSES; TO
4 PROVIDE THAT STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING AND PUBLIC
5 COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES OFFERING SUCH COURSES SHALL NOT BE
6 SUBJECT TO REGULATION BY THE MISSISSIPPI GAMING COMMISSION; TO
7 AMEND SECTIONS 75-76-55, 37-101-13 AND 37-29-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE
8 OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT; TO AMEND
9 SECTION 37-29-63, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY TO THE
10 PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT AND TO EXTEND THE DATE OF REPEAL FOR SUCH
11 SECTION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

13 **SECTION 1.** Section 75-76-34, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
14 amended as follows:

15 75-76-34. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section,
16 the Mississippi Gaming Commission is authorized to regulate all
17 schools or training institutions that teach or train gaming
18 employees. Such schools shall only be located in counties where
19 gaming is legal aboard a cruise vessel or vessel or in counties
20 where cruise vessels were legally operating out of a port at the
21 time of passage of the Mississippi Gaming Control Act pursuant to
22 Section 19-3-79, unless the school, course or training is offered
23 by a state institution of higher learning or a public community or
24 junior college. No such school shall be located on publicly owned
25 property other than property under the jurisdiction of the Board
26 of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning or a public
27 community or junior college. Except as authorized under this
28 section, no public school shall teach or train persons to be
29 gaming employees. The gaming activities of schools or training
30 institutions regulated by the commission and of state institutions
31 of higher learning and public community and junior colleges shall

32 be deemed to be legal under the laws of the State of Mississippi.
33 Any person desiring to operate a school or training institution
34 other than a state institution of higher learning or public
35 community or junior college must file a license application with
36 the executive director to be licensed by the commission.

37 (2) The commission may adopt regulations it deems necessary
38 to regulate schools and training institutions other than state
39 institutions of higher learning and public community and junior
40 colleges. These regulations shall, without limiting the general
41 powers of the commission, include the following:

42 (a) Prescribing the method and form of application
43 which any applicant for a school or training institution must
44 follow and complete before consideration of his application by the
45 executive director or commission.

46 (b) Prescribing the information to be furnished by the
47 applicant relating to his employees.

48 (c) Requiring fingerprinting of the applicant,
49 employees and students of the school or institution or other
50 methods of identification and the forwarding of all fingerprints
51 taken pursuant to regulation of the Federal Bureau of
52 Investigation.

53 (d) Requiring any applicant to pay all or part of the
54 fees and costs of investigation of the applicant as may be
55 determined by the commission.

56 (e) Prescribing the manner and method of collection and
57 payment of fees and costs and issuance of licenses to schools or
58 training institutions.

59 (f) Prescribing under what conditions a licensee
60 authorized by this section may be deemed subject to revocation or
61 suspension of his license.

62 (g) Defining the curriculum of the school or training
63 institution, the games and devices permitted, the use of tokens

64 only for instruction purposes, and the method of operation of
65 games and devices.

66 (h) Requiring the applicant to submit its location of
67 the school or training institution, which shall be at least four
68 hundred (400) feet from any church, school, kindergarten or
69 funeral home. However, within an area zoned commercial or
70 business, the minimum distance shall not be less than one hundred
71 (100) feet.

72 (i) Requiring that all employees and students of the
73 school or training institution be at least twenty-one (21) years
74 of age and be a resident of the State of Mississippi.

75 (j) Requiring all employees and students of the school
76 or training institution to wear identification cards issued by the
77 commission while on the premises of the school or training
78 institution.

79 (k) Requiring the commission to investigate each
80 applicant, employee and student and determine that the individual
81 does not fall within any one (1) of the following categories:

82 (i) Is under indictment for, or has been convicted
83 in any court of, a felony;

84 (ii) Is a fugitive from justice;

85 (iii) Is an unlawful user of any controlled
86 substance, is addicted to any controlled substance or alcoholic
87 beverage, or is an habitual drunkard;

88 (iv) Is a mental defective, has been committed to
89 a mental institution, or has been voluntarily committed to a
90 mental institution on more than one (1) occasion;

91 (v) Has been discharged from the Armed Forces
92 under dishonorable conditions; or

93 (vi) Has been found at any time by the executive
94 director or commission to have falsified any information.

95 (3) State institutions of higher learning may offer credited
96 courses specifically relating to gaming management, including, but

97 not limited to, courses that provide instruction in accounting,
98 hospitality, marketing, auditing, finance, procurement, security
99 and regulatory requirements in fulfillment of a degree in general
100 business management, hotel and motel management, food and beverage
101 management, gaming management, accounting or criminal justice.

102 State institutions of higher learning are not subject to
103 regulation by the commission for the purposes of this subsection.

104 (4) State institutions of higher learning and public
105 community and junior colleges may offer courses related to casino
106 hospitality services, cage and count operations, and slot machine
107 maintenance. Slot machine maintenance training may be performed
108 only on equipment approved by the commission for training purposes
109 only. State institutions of higher learning and public community
110 and junior colleges are not subject to regulation by the
111 commission for the purposes of this subsection.

112 **SECTION 2.** Section 75-76-55, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
113 amended as follows:

114 75-76-55. (1) Except as otherwise provided in Section
115 75-76-34, it is unlawful for any person, either as owner, lessee
116 or employee, whether for hire or not, either solely or in
117 conjunction with others, without having first procured and
118 thereafter maintaining in effect a state gaming license:

119 (a) To deal, operate, carry on, conduct, maintain or
120 expose for play in the State of Mississippi any gambling game,
121 including without limitation any gaming device, slot machine, race
122 book or sports pool;

123 (b) To provide or maintain any information service the
124 primary purpose of which is to aid the placing or making of wagers
125 on events of any kind; or

126 (c) To receive, directly or indirectly, any
127 compensation or reward or any percentage or share of the money or
128 property played, for keeping, running or carrying on any gambling

129 game, including without limitation any slot machine, gaming
130 device, race book or sports pool.

131 (2) Except as otherwise provided in Section 75-76-34, it is
132 unlawful for any person knowingly to permit any gambling game,
133 including without limitation any slot machine, gaming device, race
134 book or sports pool to be conducted, operated, dealt or carried on
135 in any house or building or other premises owned by him, in whole
136 or in part, by a person who is not licensed pursuant to this
137 chapter or by his employee.

138 **SECTION 3.** Section 37-101-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
139 amended as follows:

140 37-101-13. It shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees of
141 State Institutions of Higher Learning to begin immediately a
142 comprehensive study of the role and scope of all of the various
143 institutions under its jurisdiction, including a detailed study of
144 the programs of study, degrees and courses offered. Following the
145 completion of such study, the board shall make such adjustments as
146 may be found to be necessary in the programs of the various
147 institutions, to the end that the broadest possible educational
148 opportunities shall be offered to the citizens of this state
149 without inefficient and needless duplication. Subject to the
150 provisions of Section 75-76-34, the board shall, through such
151 officers of the board and through such procedures as it shall see
152 fit to establish, exercise continuing jurisdiction and control
153 over the establishment of new courses of study, new departments
154 and new functions and activities in each institution so that the
155 growth and development of the program of higher education in the
156 state shall proceed in an orderly and rational manner, inefficient
157 and needless duplication may be avoided, and new expanded programs
158 will be undertaken only as the same may become justified, based
159 upon objective criteria to be established by the board. In
160 carrying out the purposes of this section, particular attention
161 shall be given to the extension programs of the various

162 institutions. The board, in conjunction with the chancellor and
163 presidents of the institutions of higher learning, shall take such
164 steps as may be necessary to improve and coordinate such programs
165 and shall exercise such direct control over the establishment,
166 organization, operation and granting of credit for such programs
167 as may be necessary to accomplish such purposes.

168 **SECTION 4.** Section 37-29-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
169 amended as follows:

170 37-29-1. (1) The creation, establishment, maintenance and
171 operation of community and junior colleges is authorized.
172 Community and junior colleges may admit students if they have
173 earned one (1) unit less than the number of units required for
174 high school graduation established by State Board of Education
175 policy or have earned a General Education Diploma (GED) in courses
176 correlated to those of senior colleges or professional schools.
177 Subject to the provisions of Section 75-76-34, they shall offer
178 education and training preparatory for occupations such as
179 agriculture, industry, business, homemaking and for other
180 occupations on the semi-professional and vocational-technical
181 level. They may offer courses and services to students regardless
182 of their previous educational attainment or further academic
183 plans.

184 (2) The boards of trustees of the community and junior
185 college districts are authorized to establish a dual enrollment
186 program under which high school students meeting the requirements
187 prescribed in this section may enroll at a community or junior
188 college while they are still attending high school and enrolled in
189 high school courses. Students may be admitted to enroll in
190 community or junior college courses under the dual enrollment
191 program if they meet the following recommended admission
192 requirements:

193 (a) Students must have completed a minimum of fourteen
194 (14) core high school units;

195 (b) Students must have a 3.0 grade point average on a
196 4.0 scale, or better, on all high school courses, as documented by
197 an official high school transcript; a home-schooled student must
198 submit a transcript prepared by a parent, guardian or custodian
199 with a signed, sworn affidavit to meet the requirement of this
200 paragraph; and

201 (c) Students must have an unconditional written
202 recommendation from their high school principal and/or guidance
203 counselor. A home-schooled student must submit a parent, legal
204 guardian or custodian's written recommendation to meet the
205 requirement of this paragraph.

206 Students may be considered for the dual enrollment program
207 who have not completed the minimum of fourteen (14) core high
208 school units if they have a minimum ACT composite score of thirty
209 (30) or the equivalent SAT score, and have the required grade
210 point average and recommendations prescribed above.

211 Students admitted in the dual enrollment program shall be
212 counted for adequate education program funding purposes in the
213 average daily attendance of the public school district in which
214 they attend high school. Any additional transportation required
215 by a student to participate in the dual enrollment program shall
216 be the responsibility of the parents or legal guardians of the
217 student. Grades and college credits earned by students admitted
218 to the dual enrollment program shall be recorded on the college
219 transcript at the community or junior college where the student
220 attends classes. The transcript of such college course work may
221 be released to another institution or used for college graduation
222 requirements only after the student has received his high school
223 diploma.

224 (3) The boards of trustees of the community and junior
225 college districts are authorized to establish an early admission
226 program under which applicants meeting all requirements prescribed
227 in subsection (2)(a) through (c) and having a minimum ACT

228 composite score of twenty-six (26) or the equivalent SAT score may
229 be admitted as full-time college students if the principal or
230 guidance counsellor of the student recommends in writing that it
231 is in the best educational interest of the student. Such
232 recommendation shall also state that the student's age will not
233 keep him from being a successful full-time college student.
234 Students admitted in the early admission program shall not be
235 counted for adequate education program funding purposes in the
236 average daily attendance of the school district in which they
237 reside, and transportation required by a student to participate in
238 the early admission program shall be the responsibility of the
239 parents or legal guardians of the student. Grades and college
240 credits earned by students admitted to the early admission program
241 shall be recorded on the college transcript at the community or
242 junior college where the student attends classes, and may be
243 released to another institution or used for college graduation
244 requirements only after the student has successfully completed one
245 (1) full semester of course work.

246 (4) The community and junior colleges shall provide, through
247 courses or other acceptable educational measures, the general
248 education necessary to individuals and groups which will tend to
249 make them capable of living satisfactory lives consistent with the
250 ideals of a democratic society.

251 **SECTION 5.** Section 37-29-63, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
252 amended as follows:

253 37-29-63. The president of any community/junior college, or
254 such other person designated or authorized by the board of
255 trustees, shall have the power to recommend to the board of
256 trustees all teachers to be employed in the district. The
257 president may remove or suspend any member of the faculty subject
258 to the approval of the trustees. He shall be the general manager
259 of all fiscal and administrative affairs of the district with full
260 authority to select, direct, employ and discharge any and all

261 employees other than teachers; however, the board may make
262 provisions and establish policies for leave for faculty members
263 and other key personnel.

264 The president shall have the authority, subject to the
265 provisions of Section 75-76-34 and Sections 37-29-1 through
266 37-29-273 and the approval of the trustees, to arrange and survey
267 courses of study, fix schedules, and establish and enforce rules
268 and discipline for the governing of teachers and students. He
269 shall be the general custodian of the property of the district.

270 This section shall be repealed on July 1, 2007.

271 **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
272 and after its passage.