

By: Representative Martinson

To: Universities and
Colleges

HOUSE BILL NO. 356

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-101-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REQUIRE THE STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING TO PHASE OUT
3 REMEDIAL COURSES IN READING AND READING COMPREHENSION; AND FOR
4 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-101-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 37-101-15. (a) The Board of Trustees of State Institutions
9 of Higher Learning shall succeed to and continue to exercise
10 control of all records, books, papers, equipment, and supplies,
11 and all lands, buildings, and other real and personal property
12 belonging to or assigned to the use and benefit of the board of
13 trustees formerly supervising and controlling the institutions of
14 higher learning named in Section 37-101-1. The board shall have
15 and exercise control of the use, distribution and disbursement of
16 all funds, appropriations and taxes, now and hereafter in
17 possession, levied and collected, received, or appropriated for
18 the use, benefit, support, and maintenance or capital outlay
19 expenditures of the institutions of higher learning, including the
20 authorization of employees to sign vouchers for the disbursement
21 of funds for the various institutions, except where otherwise
22 specifically provided by law.

23 (b) The board shall have general supervision of the affairs
24 of all the institutions of higher learning, including the
25 departments and the schools thereof. The board shall have the
26 power in its discretion to determine who shall be privileged to
27 enter, to remain in, or to graduate therefrom. The board shall
28 have general supervision of the conduct of libraries and

29 laboratories, the care of dormitories, buildings, and grounds; the
30 business methods and arrangement of accounts and records; the
31 organization of the administrative plan of each institution; and
32 all other matters incident to the proper functioning of the
33 institutions. The board shall have the authority to establish
34 minimum standards of achievement as a prerequisite for entrance
35 into any of the institutions under its jurisdiction, which
36 standards need not be uniform between the various institutions and
37 which may be based upon such criteria as the board may establish.

38 (c) The board shall exercise all the powers and prerogatives
39 conferred upon it under the laws establishing and providing for
40 the operation of the several institutions herein specified. The
41 board shall adopt such bylaws and regulations from time to time as
42 it deems expedient for the proper supervision and control of the
43 several institutions of higher learning, insofar as such bylaws
44 and regulations are not repugnant to the Constitution and laws,
45 and not inconsistent with the object for which these institutions
46 were established. The board shall have power and authority to
47 prescribe rules and regulations for policing the campuses and all
48 buildings of the respective institutions, to authorize the arrest
49 of all persons violating on any campus any criminal law of the
50 state, and to have such law violators turned over to the civil
51 authorities. Beginning in the 2006-2007 school year, the board
52 shall require each institution to begin to phase out remedial
53 courses in reading and reading comprehension so that before the
54 2008-2009 school year, all remedial courses in reading and reading
55 comprehension will have been eliminated.

56 (d) For all institutions specified herein, the board shall
57 provide a uniform system of recording and of accounting approved
58 by the State Department of Audit. The board shall annually
59 prepare, or cause to be prepared, a budget for each institution of
60 higher learning for the succeeding year which must be prepared and
61 in readiness for at least thirty (30) days before the convening of

62 the regular session of the Legislature. All relationships and
63 negotiations between the State Legislature and its various
64 committees and the institutions named herein shall be carried on
65 through the board of trustees. No official, employee or agent
66 representing any of the separate institutions shall appear before
67 the Legislature or any committee thereof except upon the written
68 order of the board or upon the request of the Legislature or a
69 committee thereof.

70 (e) For all institutions specified herein, the board shall
71 prepare an annual report to the Legislature setting forth the
72 disbursements of all monies appropriated to the respective
73 institutions. Each report to the Legislature shall show how the
74 money appropriated to the several institutions has been expended,
75 beginning and ending with the fiscal years of the institutions,
76 showing the name of each teacher, officer, and employee, and the
77 salary paid each, and an itemized statement of each and every item
78 of receipts and expenditures. Each report must be balanced, and
79 must begin with the former balance. If any property belonging to
80 the state or the institution is used for profit, the reports shall
81 show the expense incurred in managing the property and the amount
82 received therefrom. The reports shall also show a summary of the
83 gross receipts and gross disbursements for each year and shall
84 show the money on hand at the beginning of the fiscal period of
85 the institution next preceding each session of the Legislature and
86 the necessary amount of expense to be incurred from said date to
87 January 1 following. The board shall keep the annual expenditures
88 of each institution herein mentioned within the income derived
89 from legislative appropriations and other sources, but in case of
90 emergency arising from acts of providence, epidemics, fire or
91 storm with the written approval of the Governor and by written
92 consent of a majority of the senators and of the representatives
93 it may exceed the income. The board shall require a surety bond
94 in a surety company authorized to do business in this state, of

95 every employee who is the custodian of funds belonging to one or
96 more of the institutions mentioned herein, which bond shall be in
97 a sum to be fixed by the board in an amount that will properly
98 safeguard the * * * funds, the premium for which shall be paid out
99 of the funds appropriated for the institutions.

100 (f) The board shall have the power and authority to elect
101 the heads of the various institutions of higher learning and to
102 contract with all deans, professors, and other members of the
103 teaching staff, and all administrative employees of said
104 institutions for a term of not exceeding four (4) years. The
105 board shall have the power and authority to terminate any such
106 contract at any time for malfeasance, inefficiency, or
107 contumacious conduct, but never for political reasons. It shall
108 be the policy of the board to permit the executive head of each
109 institution to nominate for election by the board all subordinate
110 employees of the institution over which he presides. It shall be
111 the policy of the board to elect all officials for a definite
112 tenure of service and to reelect during the period of satisfactory
113 service. The board shall have the power to make any adjustments
114 it thinks necessary between the various departments and schools of
115 any institution or between the different institutions.

116 (g) The board shall keep complete minutes and records of all
117 proceedings which shall be open for inspection by any citizen of
118 the state.

119 (h) The board shall have the power to contract, on a
120 shared-savings, lease or lease-purchase basis, for energy
121 efficiency services and/or equipment as prescribed in Section
122 31-7-14, not to exceed ten (10) years.

123 (i) The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher
124 Learning, for and on behalf of Jackson State University, is hereby
125 authorized to convey by donation or otherwise easements across
126 portions of certain real estate located in the City of Jackson,

127 Hinds County, Mississippi, for right-of-way required for the Metro
128 Parkway Project.

129 (j) In connection with any international contract between
130 the board or one of the state's institutions of higher learning
131 and any party outside of the United States, the board or
132 institution that is the party to the international contract is
133 hereby authorized and empowered to include in the contract a
134 provision for the resolution by arbitration of any controversy
135 between the parties to the contract relating to such contract or
136 the failure or refusal to perform any part of the contract. Such
137 provision shall be valid, enforceable and irrevocable without
138 regard to the justiciable character of the controversy. Provided,
139 however, that in the event either party to such contract initiates
140 litigation against the other with respect to the contract, the
141 arbitration provision shall be deemed waived unless asserted as a
142 defense on or before the responding party is required to answer
143 such litigation.

144 (k) The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher
145 Learning ("board"), on behalf of any institution under its
146 jurisdiction, shall purchase and maintain business property
147 insurance and business personal property insurance on all
148 university-owned buildings and/or contents as required by federal
149 law and regulations of the Federal Emergency Management Agency
150 (FEMA) as is necessary for receiving public assistance or
151 reimbursement for repair, reconstruction, replacement or other
152 damage to those buildings and/or contents caused by the Hurricane
153 Katrina Disaster of 2005 or subsequent disasters. The board is
154 authorized to expend funds from any available source for the
155 purpose of obtaining and maintaining that property insurance. The
156 board is authorized to enter into agreements with the Department
157 of Finance and Administration, local school districts,
158 community/junior college districts, community hospitals and/or
159 other state agencies to pool their liabilities to participate in a

160 group business property and/or business personal property
161 insurance program, subject to uniform rules and regulations as may
162 be adopted by the Department of Finance and Administration.

163 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
164 and after July 1, 2006.