

By: Representative Carlton

To: Universities and
Colleges; Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 815

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A COMMISSION TO STUDY THE EFFECTIVENESS AND
2 EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF COLLEGE TUITION ASSISTANCE
3 PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING AND
4 EVALUATE MERIT BASED COLLEGE TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS; AND FOR
5 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created a commission to study the
8 effectiveness and efficiency of the administration of college
9 tuition assistance programs administered by the Institutions of
10 Higher Learning. In addition, the commission shall evaluate merit
11 based college tuition assistance programs and establish procedures
12 and guidelines for implementing merit based programs.

13 The commission shall make a report of its findings and
14 recommendations to the House and Senate Education Committees by
15 October 1, 2006, including any recommended legislation.

16 (2) The commission shall be composed of the following three
17 (3) members:

18 (a) A representative of the State Department of
19 Education, to be appointed by the State Superintendent of Public
20 Education;

21 (b) A representative from the Institutions of Higher
22 Learning, to be appointed by the commissioner;

23 (c) A representative from the State Board for Community
24 and Junior Colleges, to be appointed by the chairman of the board.

25 (3) Appointments shall be made within thirty (30) days after
26 the effective date of this act. The commission shall hold its
27 first meeting before July 15, 2006.

28 (4) Members of the commission may not be compensated for the
29 performance of their duties. Any incidental costs associated with
30 conducting the study shall be paid by the State Department of
31 Education.

32 (5) To effectuate the purposes of this section, any
33 department, division, board, bureau, commission or agency of the
34 state or of any political subdivision thereof shall, at the
35 request of the chairperson of the task force, provide to the
36 commission such facilities, assistance and data as will enable the
37 commission to properly carry out its duties.

38 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
39 and after its passage.