

By: Representative Moak

To: Universities and  
Colleges; Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 256

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE CERTAIN SENIOR CITIZENS TO ENROLL IN  
2 COURSES, FREE OF TUITION, AT THE STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER  
3 LEARNING; 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 sixty-five (65) years of age or  
7 older.

8 (2) A qualified senior citizen who is a legal resident of  
9 the state may enroll in a course or courses offered at a state  
10 institution of higher learning without paying the tuition and any  
11 applicable fees ordinarily assessed by the state institution for  
12 attendance at that institution. Both full-time and part-time  
13 senior citizen students may register for and enroll in courses to  
14 earn academic credit in fulfillment of the requirements of a  
15 degree or for auditing purposes only. A senior citizen student  
16 also may register for and enroll in courses made available at a  
17 state institution of higher learning for which no academic credit  
18 is awarded.

19 (3) In order to qualify for registering for and enrolling in  
20 courses without paying tuition and applicable fees at a state  
21 institution of higher learning, a senior citizen's individual  
22 taxable income, for Mississippi income tax purposes, for the year  
23 preceding the year in which enrollment is sought must not have  
24 exceeded Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00).

25 (4) Qualified senior citizens registering for a course or  
26 courses under this section are exempt from paying tuition and fees  
27 ordinarily assessed by the state institution of higher learning

28 other than fees that may be charged for materials to be used in a  
29 particular course, such as laboratory fees. Senior citizens  
30 registering for courses must comply with the admissions  
31 requirements of the state institution. The institution shall  
32 determine its ability to offer a course for which a senior citizen  
33 has registered and may elect to cancel it if an insufficient  
34 number of students has registered for that course.

35 (5) The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher  
36 Learning shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry  
37 out the purposes and intent of this section. The rules and  
38 regulations must include a process to ensure that tuition-paying  
39 students are accommodated in a course before senior citizens  
40 registering for that course under this section are enrolled.  
41 However, a state institution of higher learning may make  
42 individual exceptions if a senior citizen has completed  
43 seventy-five percent (75%) of the requirements for the degree  
44 toward which the senior citizen is working.

45 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
46 and after July 1, 2007.