

By: Representative Flaggs

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1289

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-15-39, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REQUIRE AN EXAMINATION THAT MEASURES STUDENTS' ABILITY TO
3 SUCCEED IN ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL
4 SOPHOMORES IN MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE
5 LEGISLATURE SHALL PROVIDE FUNDING TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF
6 EDUCATION FOR THIS PURPOSE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-15-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 37-15-39. (1) The purpose of this section is to ensure that
11 each student has a sufficient education for success after high
12 school and that all students have equal access to a substantive
13 and rigorous curriculum that is designed to challenge their minds
14 and enhance their knowledge skill.

15 (2) The following words and phrases have the meanings
16 ascribed in this section unless the context clearly requires
17 otherwise:

18 (a) "Advanced placement course" means any high school
19 level preparatory course for a college advanced placement test
20 that incorporates all topics specified by recognized advanced
21 placement authorities on standards for a given subject area and
22 is approved by recognized advanced placement authorities.

23 (b) "Dual enrollment course" means a postsecondary
24 level course offered by a state institution of higher learning or
25 community or junior colleges, which, upon successful completion,
26 qualifies for academic credit in both the postsecondary
27 institution and public high school.

28 (c) "Pre-advanced placement course" means a middle,
29 junior high or high school level course that specifically prepares

30 students to enroll and participate in an advanced placement
31 course.

32 (d) "Vertical team" means a group of educators from
33 different grade levels in a given discipline working cooperatively
34 to develop and implement a vertically aligned program aimed at
35 helping students from diverse backgrounds acquire the academic
36 skills necessary for success in the advanced placement program and
37 other challenging course work.

38 (e) "High concentration of low-income students" means,
39 when used with respect to a public school or school district, a
40 public school or school district that serves a student population
41 with fifty percent (50%) or more being low-income individuals ages
42 five (5) through seventeen (17) years from a low-income family on
43 the basis of: data on children eligible for the free or
44 reduced-price lunches under the National School Lunch Act; data on
45 children in families receiving assistance under Part A of Title IV
46 of the Social Security Act; data on children eligible to receive
47 medical assistance under the Medicaid program under Title XIX of
48 the Social Security Act; or an alternate method of identifying
49 such children which combines or extrapolates that data.

50 (3) The State Board of Education shall establish clear,
51 specific and challenging training guidelines that require teachers
52 of advanced placement courses and teachers of pre-advanced
53 placement courses to obtain a recognized advanced placement
54 authority endorsed training. A teacher of an advanced placement
55 or pre-advanced placement course, or both, must obtain the
56 appropriate training.

57 (4) (a) In order to ensure that each student has a
58 sufficient education for success after high school and that all
59 students have equal access to a substantive and rigorous
60 curriculum that is designed to challenge their minds and enhance
61 their knowledge skill, school districts shall offer pre-advanced

62 placement courses to prepare students for advanced placement
63 course work.

64 (b) Beginning in the 2007-2008 school year, any student
65 in a Mississippi public school who is classified as a sophomore
66 may take, in the student's discretion, an examination that
67 measures the student's ability to succeed in an advanced placement
68 course. The Legislature shall provide sufficient funding to the
69 State Department of Education for this purpose; however, the
70 State Department of Education shall seek federal funding through
71 the Advanced Placement Incentive Grant Program and other available
72 funding for this purpose. * * * Efforts to procure federal
73 funding and any other available nonstate funding must be focused
74 with an intent to carry out advanced placement and pre-advanced
75 placement activities in school districts targeted as serving a
76 high concentration of low-income students.

77 (c) The State Department of Education must approve all
78 classes designated as pre-advanced placement courses. The
79 department shall develop rules necessary for the implementation of
80 advanced placement courses.

81 (5) Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, all school
82 districts must offer at least one (1) advanced placement course in
83 each of the four (4) core areas of math, English, science and
84 social studies, for a total offering of no less than four (4)
85 advanced placement courses. The use of the state's online
86 Advanced Placement Instructional Program is an appropriate
87 alternative for the delivery of advanced placement courses.

88 Any public high school offering the International
89 Baccalaureate Diploma Program is exempt from the requirements of
90 this subsection. However, the school may participate in teacher
91 training and program funding on the same basis as any high school
92 offering advanced placement courses.

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