

By: Representative Aldridge

To: Universities and
Colleges; Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1477

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-157-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO DELETE FINANCIAL NEED ON THE PART OF A STUDENT FROM THE
3 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED FOR RECEIVING UNDERGRADUATE
4 TUITION ASSISTANCE FROM THE STATE AT AN APPROVED COLLEGE OR
5 UNIVERSITY LOCATED IN MISSISSIPPI; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-157-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 37-157-1. (1) The tuition at any institution of higher
10 education in the state shall be paid by the state on behalf of any
11 student who enrolls in such a school to pursue an academic
12 undergraduate degree, who applies for the payment thereof, and who
13 meets all of the following qualifications:

14 (a) Actual residence in Mississippi during the
15 twenty-four (24) months immediately preceding university or
16 college enrollment. For the purposes of this paragraph, residency
17 shall be demonstrated by proof of the following as required by the
18 administering agency:

19 (i) If registered to vote, being registered in
20 Mississippi.

21 (ii) If licensed to drive a motor vehicle, being
22 in possession of a Mississippi driver's license.

23 (iii) If owning a motor vehicle located within
24 Mississippi, being in possession of Mississippi registration for
25 that vehicle.

26 (iv) If earning an income, having filed a
27 Mississippi state income tax return and having complied with state
28 income tax laws and regulations.

29 (b) Having a parent or guardian who is a domiciliary of
30 Mississippi.

31 (c) Graduation from high school within the two (2)
32 years preceding the application with a minimum cumulative grade
33 point average of 2.5 calculated on a 4.0 scale.

34 (d) Successful completion of seventeen and one-half
35 (17-1/2) units of high school course work (Grade 9 level or
36 higher) which constitutes a core curriculum and meets standards
37 for admission to the desired college or university. The core
38 curriculum is defined as follows:

39 (i) English I, II, III and IV (four (4) units).

40 (ii) Algebra I and II (two (2) units).

41 (iii) Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus or
42 comparable Advanced Mathematics (one (1) unit).

43 (iv) Biology (one (1) unit).

44 (v) Chemistry (one (1) unit).

45 (vi) Earth Science, Environmental Science,
46 Physical Science, Biology II, Chemistry II or Physics (one (1)
47 unit).

48 (vii) American History (one (1) unit).

49 (viii) World History, World Cultures, Western
50 Civilization or World Geography (one (1) unit).

51 (ix) Civics and/or Economics (one (1) unit).

52 (x) Fine Arts Survey (one (1) unit; or substitute
53 two (2) units of performance courses in music, dance or theater;
54 or substitute two (2) units of studio art courses).

55 (xi) Foreign Language (two (2) units in a single
56 language).

57 (xii) Computer Science, Computer Literacy or Data
58 Processing (one-half (1/2) unit).

59 (xiii) Electives from the above (one (1) unit).

60 (e) Having a composite score on the American College
61 Test of at least twenty (20) on the 1989 version or an equivalent
62 concordant value on an enhanced version of such test.

63 (f) Having no criminal record, except for misdemeanor
64 traffic violations.

65 * * *

66 (2) For purposes of this section:

67 (a) "Institution of higher education" shall mean any of
68 the following institutions of higher learning or community or
69 junior colleges located in Mississippi: Alcorn State University,
70 Delta State University, Jackson State University, Mississippi
71 State University, Mississippi University for Women, Mississippi
72 Valley State University, University of Mississippi, University of
73 Southern Mississippi, Coahoma Community College, Copiah-Lincoln
74 Community College, East Central Community College, East
75 Mississippi Community College, Hinds Community College, Holmes
76 Community College, Itawamba Community College, Jones County Junior
77 College, Meridian Community College, Mississippi Delta Community
78 College, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Northeast
79 Mississippi Community College, Northwest Mississippi Community
80 College, Pearl River Community College, Southwest Mississippi
81 Community College, Belhaven College, Blue Mountain College,
82 Millsaps College, Mississippi College, Rust College, Tougaloo
83 College, William Carey College, Mary Holmes College, Magnolia
84 Bible College and Wood College.

85 (b) "Tuition" shall mean the semester or trimester or
86 term charges and all required fees imposed by an institution of
87 higher education as a condition of enrollment by all students.
88 However, for a two-year nonpublic institution of higher education
89 defined in paragraph (a), the tuition payments shall not exceed
90 the average charges and fees required by all of the two-year
91 public institutions of higher education defined in paragraph (a),
92 and for a four-year nonpublic institution of higher education

93 defined in paragraph (a), the tuition payments shall not exceed
94 the average charges and fees required by all of the four-year
95 public institutions of higher education defined in paragraph (a).

96 (3) The tuition at any institution of higher education in
97 the state shall be paid by the state on behalf of any student who
98 enrolls in such a school to pursue an academic undergraduate or
99 associate degree, who applies for the payment thereof, and who
100 meets the qualifications enumerated in paragraphs (a), (b), and
101 (f) * * * of subsection (1) but who fails to meet one (1) of the
102 particular requirements established by paragraph (c), (d) or (e)
103 of subsection (1) by an amount of ten percent (10%) or less.

104 (4) To maintain continued state payment of tuition, once
105 enrolled in an institution of higher education, a student shall
106 meet all of the following requirements:

107 (a) Make steady academic progress toward a degree,
108 earning not less than the minimum number of hours of credit
109 required for full-time standing in each academic period requiring
110 such enrollment;

111 (b) Maintain continuous enrollment for not less than
112 two (2) semesters or three (3) quarters in each successive
113 academic year, unless granted an exception for cause by the
114 administering agency;

115 (c) Have a cumulative grade point average of at least
116 2.5 calculated on a 4.0 scale at the end of the first academic
117 year and thereafter maintain such a cumulative grade point average
118 as evaluated at the end of each academic year; and

119 (d) Have no criminal record, except for misdemeanor
120 traffic violations.

121 * * *

122 (5) The provisions of this chapter shall be administered by
123 the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning in
124 conjunction with the State Board for Community and Junior

125 Colleges. The board may provide by rule for all matters necessary
126 for the implementation of this chapter.

127 (6) By rule, the board shall provide for:

128 (a) A mechanism for informing all students of the
129 availability of the assistance provided pursuant to this chapter
130 early enough in their schooling that a salutary motivational
131 effect is possible.

132 (b) Applications, forms, financial audit procedures,
133 eligibility and other program audit procedures and other matters
134 related to efficient operation.

135 (c) A procedure for waiver through the 1996-1997
136 academic year of the program eligibility requirement for
137 successful completion of a specified core curriculum upon proper
138 documentation by the applicant that failure to comply with such
139 requirement is due solely to the fact that the required course or
140 courses were not available to the applicant at the school
141 attended.

142 (7) * * * An appropriation of funds may annually be made to
143 the board sufficient to cover, in addition to any other available
144 funds, the costs of tuition required to be paid, both initial and
145 continuing, for the coming academic year. All such payments shall
146 be made directly to the institution to which such tuition is due
147 after notice to the school that the state shall pay the tuition of
148 a student and after notice from the school that the student has
149 actually enrolled.

150 (8) The board may seek, accept and expend funds from any
151 source, including private business, industry, foundations and
152 other groups as well as any federal or other governmental funding
153 available for this purpose.

154 (9) No student shall receive a grant pursuant to this
155 chapter in an amount greater than the tuition charged by the
156 school. The student must apply for a federal grant prior to
157 receiving state funds.

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