

By: Senator(s) Butler

To: Rules

SENATE BILL NO. 2067

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM TO ALLOW
2 THIRD-YEAR STUDENTS AT ANY STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING TO
3 WORK FOR MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND
4 RECEIVE ACADEMIC CREDIT; TO PROVIDE CERTAIN CONDITIONS ON THIS
5 PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is hereby established a Legislative
8 Internship Program to be administered by the Board of Trustees of
9 State Institutions of Higher Learning, under which any third-year
10 student attending any state institution of higher learning in
11 Mississippi may work for members of the Mississippi Senate or
12 House of Representatives and receive academic credit.

13 (2) The following conditions shall be applicable to the
14 Legislative Internship Program:

15 (a) The student must be a full-time student in his
16 third year at a state institution of higher learning located in
17 Mississippi.

18 (b) The student shall receive no pay or benefits, but
19 will be eligible for academic credit from the sponsoring
20 university.

21 (c) The students will be assigned to a Senator or
22 member of the House of Representatives who requests the assistance
23 of an intern.

24 (d) The student shall not require new office space,
25 telephones or computers, but shall utilize facilities and
26 equipment presently located in the New Capitol Building or
27 otherwise directed jointly by the Senate Rules Committee and the
28 House Management Committee.

29 (e) The student shall not perform functions for which a
30 full-time legislative employee is responsible and all work
31 functions shall be directed under policies jointly adopted by the
32 Senate Rules Committee and the House Management Committee.

33 (f) The period of the assignment for the student shall
34 be for one (1) semester with the option of extending the
35 assignment for a second semester.

36 (g) The legislator and the student shall agree upon a
37 schedule and level of support that is mutually satisfactory and
38 takes into account the academic schedule of the student, under
39 policies jointly adopted by the Senate Rules Committee and the
40 House Management Committee.

41 (h) The student shall be issued a badge that would
42 permit entry to the working areas of the New Capitol Building, not
43 to include the floor of the Senate or House of Representatives
44 during open session.

45 (i) The Senator or member of the House of
46 Representatives to whom the student is assigned shall complete an
47 evaluation form provided by the Board of Trustees of State
48 Institutions of Higher Learning at the end of the assignment
49 period that will be placed in the student's file and used for
50 grading purposes.

51 (j) For academic purposes, the student shall be known
52 as a "legislative intern".

53 (3) The legislative internship program authorized under this
54 section shall be instituted beginning in the 2008 Regular Session
55 and as further agreed upon by the Board of Trustees of State
56 Institutions of Higher Learning and the joint policy of the Senate
57 Rules Committee and the House Management Committee.

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