

By: Senator(s) Gordon, Frazier

To: Universities and
Colleges; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2364

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT THE LEGISLATURE SHALL ANNUALLY
2 APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR MID-LEVEL FUNDING FOR MISSISSIPPI'S PUBLIC
3 COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** The Legislature finds and declares as follows:

6 (1) Mississippi's public community and junior colleges are
7 Mississippi's best educational buy. An education at Mississippi's
8 community and junior colleges is affordable and accessible to all.
9 Mississippians have an option to attend a community or junior
10 college close to home, with smaller class sizes and at
11 approximately one-half (1/2) the cost of tuition at a public
12 four-year institution;

13 (2) In recent fiscal years, appropriations for community and
14 junior colleges have not kept pace with increases appropriated to
15 K-12 and the state institutions of higher learning;

16 (3) A need exists to provide adequate funding for
17 Mississippi's community and junior colleges; and

18 (4) Adequate funding should be accomplished through
19 appropriate funding on a full-time equivalency (FTE) basis.

20 **SECTION 2.** As used in this act:

21 (1) "Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Enrollment" shall be
22 calculated from credit/contact hour data as defined by the
23 Southeastern Regional Education Board (SREB). Annual total
24 undergraduate semester credit hours are divided by thirty (30);
25 total undergraduate quarter hours are divided by forty-five (45);
26 total graduate semester credit hours are divided by twenty-four

27 (24); and total graduate quarter hours are divided by thirty-six
28 (36).

29 (2) "State funds" means all funds appropriated from the
30 State Legislature, including the General Fund, the Education
31 Enhancement Fund, the Budget Contingency Fund and the Healthcare
32 Expendable Trust Fund.

33 (3) "E & G operations" means education and general expenses
34 of the colleges and universities.

35 (4) "Average Daily Attendance (ADA)" means the figure which
36 results when the total aggregate attendance during the period or
37 months counted is divided by the number of days during the period
38 or months counted upon which both teachers and pupils are in
39 regular attendance for scheduled classroom instruction less the
40 average daily attendance for self-contained special education
41 classes and, prior to full implementation of the adequate
42 education program the department shall deduct the average
43 attendance of the alternative school program provided for in
44 Section 37-19-22, Mississippi Code of 1972.

45 **SECTION 3.** (1) In funding community and junior colleges,
46 the amount of the annual appropriation of the community and junior
47 colleges' general support bill shall be computed as follows:

48 (a) Calculate the state funding per student for K-12 by
49 dividing the total revenue from state funds by the ADA. Both
50 funding and ADA figures shall be provided by the Mississippi
51 Department of Education;

52 (b) Calculate the state funding per FTE for regional
53 universities by dividing these state funds for E&G operations by
54 FTE. Both funding and enrollment figures shall come from the SREB
55 State Data Exchange and the state institutions of higher learning;

56 (c) Mid-level funding for community and junior colleges
57 shall be the average as computed from (a) and (b) above multiplied
58 by the total community and junior college FTE's. This amount

59 shall be appropriated annually by the Legislature to the community
60 and junior colleges.

61 (2) Data used in the calculation of (a), (b) and (c) above
62 shall be the most current available data utilizing the same fiscal
63 year for all entities involved. Information from the SREB State
64 Data Exchange will be used to ensure common denominators in the
65 calculation of full-time equivalent enrollment and to ensure
66 consistent reporting of financial data.

67 **SECTION 4.** This act shall be codified in Title 37, Chapter
68 29, Mississippi Code of 1972.

69 **SECTION 5.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
70 and after July 1, 2007.