

By: Senator(s) Gordon, Frazier, Albritton, Brown, Burton, Butler, Carmichael, Chaney, Chassaniol, Davis, Dearing, Fillingane, Gollott, Harden, Horhn, Hyde-Smith, Jackson (11th), Jackson (15th), Jackson (32nd), Jordan, King, Lee (47th), Lee (35th), Little, Moffatt, Morgan, Nunnelee, Pickering, Posey, Ross, Simmons, Thames, Walley, White, Wilemon, Williamson, Clarke

To: Universities and Colleges; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2364
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR MID-LEVEL FUNDING FOR MISSISSIPPI'S
2 PUBLIC COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES; TO PROVIDE A FORMULA FOR THE
3 CALCULATION OF MID-LEVEL FUNDING FOR THE COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR
4 COLLEGES; TO REQUIRE THE LEGISLATURE TO APPROPRIATE THE AMOUNT
5 CALCULATED UNDER THE FORMULA TO THE COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES;
6 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

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

16 (b) In recent fiscal years, appropriations for
17 community and junior colleges have not kept pace with increases
18 appropriated to Grades K-12 and the institutions of higher
19 learning;

20 (c) A need exists to provide adequate funding for
21 Mississippi's community and junior colleges; and

22 (d) Adequate funding should be accomplished through
23 appropriate funding on a full-time equivalency (FTE) basis.

24 **SECTION 2.** As used in this act, the following terms shall be
25 defined as provided in this section:

26 (a) "Full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment" means the
27 process by which the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)
28 calculates FTE by taking total undergraduate semester credit hours
29 divided by thirty (30); total undergraduate quarter hours divided

30 by forty-five (45); total graduate semester credit hours divided
31 by twenty-four (24); and total graduate quarter hours divided by
32 thirty-six (36).

33 (b) "State funds" means all funds appropriated by the
34 Legislature including funds from the State General Fund, Education
35 Enhancement Fund, Budget Contingency Fund and Health Care
36 Expendable Fund.

37 (c) "E & G operations" means education and general
38 expenses of the colleges and universities.

39 (d) "Average daily attendance (ADA)" means the figure
40 that results when the total aggregate attendance during the period
41 or months counted is divided by the number of days during the
42 period or months counted upon which both teachers and pupils are
43 in regular attendance for scheduled classroom instruction, less
44 the average daily attendance for self-contained special education
45 classes and, before full implementation of the Mississippi
46 Adequate Education Program, the State Department of Education
47 shall deduct the average attendance of the alternative school
48 program provided for in Section 37-19-22.

49 **SECTION 3.** (1) In funding community and junior colleges,
50 the actual amount of the annual appropriation of the community and
51 junior colleges general support bill shall be computed as follows:

52 (a) Calculate the state funding per student for Grades
53 K-12 by dividing the total revenue from state funds by the ADA.
54 Both the funding and ADA figures shall be provided by the State
55 Department of Education.

56 (b) Calculate the state funding per FTE for regional
57 universities by dividing the state funds for E & G operations by
58 FTE enrollment. Both funding and enrollment figures shall come
59 from the SREB State Data Exchange.

60 (c) Mid-level funding for community and junior colleges
61 shall be the average as computed from paragraphs (a) and (b) of
62 this subsection multiplied by the total community and junior

63 college FTEs. This amount shall be appropriated annually by the
64 Legislature to the community and junior colleges.

65 (2) Data used in the calculation of paragraphs (a), (b) and
66 (c) of subsection (1) shall be the most current available data
67 utilizing the same fiscal year for all entities involved.

68 Information from the SREB State Data Exchange shall be used to
69 ensure common denominators in the calculation of FTE enrollment
70 and to ensure consistent reporting of financial data.

71 **SECTION 4.** This act shall be codified in Chapter 29, Title
72 37, Mississippi Code of 1972.

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