

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

**MADAM PRESIDENT AND MR. SPEAKER:**

We, the undersigned conferees, have had under consideration the amendments to the following entitled BILL:

S. B. No. 3126: Appropriation; Student Financial Aid.

We, therefore, respectfully submit the following report and recommendation:

- 1. That the House recede from its Amendment No. 1.
- 2. That the Senate and House adopt the following amendment:

**Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

7           **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
8 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State  
9 General Fund not otherwise appropriated, to the Board of Trustees  
10 of State Institutions of Higher Learning for the support and  
11 maintenance of financial aid scholarship, loan and grant programs  
12 authorized by law and administered by the Mississippi Office of  
13 Student Financial Aid and for support of the Mississippi Office of  
14 Student Financial Aid, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007,  
15 and ending June 30, 2008..... \$     29,699,210.00.

16           **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
17 necessary, is hereby authorized out of the proceeds derived from  
18 any federal funds, grants, donations, fees, or other special  
19 source funds which are collected by or otherwise become available  
20 for the support and maintenance of financial aid scholarship, loan  
21 and grant programs authorized by law and administered by the  
22 Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid and for support of the  
23 Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid, for the fiscal year  
24 beginning July 1, 2007, and ending June 30, 2008.....  
25 ..... \$     2,289,171.00.

26           **SECTION 3.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
27 necessary, is hereby authorized for expenditure out of carryover  
28 funds in State Treasury Fund 325E, pursuant to Section 37-106-33,

29 Mississippi Code of 1972, for the support and maintenance of the  
30 Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grant Program and the  
31 Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant Program, for the fiscal year  
32 beginning July 1, 2007, and ending June 30, 2008.....  
33 ..... \$ 100,000.00.

34 **SECTION 4.** Any transfers or escalations shall be made in  
35 accordance with the terms, conditions, and procedures established  
36 by law.

37 Provided, however, that none of the funds apportioned in this  
38 act for the Out-of-State Educational Program shall be paid to or  
39 for the benefit of any student who enters a school outside the  
40 State of Mississippi for the first time, subsequent to July 1,  
41 1982, in any discipline in the fields of medicine or dentistry.

42 **SECTION 5.** It is the intention of the Legislature that of  
43 the funds appropriated under the provisions of Section 1, the  
44 Board of Trustees of the State Institutions of Higher Learning  
45 shall expend from the support of the out-of-state graduate and  
46 professional studies program an amount not exceeding the funding  
47 necessary, contingent upon the availability of qualified  
48 applicants, for ten (10) new entering optometry students and the  
49 number of returning optometry students who received funding under  
50 the program during the preceding school year; for ten (10) new  
51 entering chiropractic students, with not more than twenty-five  
52 (25) chiropractic students overall; and seven (7) new entering  
53 osteopathic medical students and the number of returning  
54 osteopathic medical students who received funding under the  
55 program during the preceding school year, for these courses of  
56 study.

57 **SECTION 6.** In the allocation of funds appropriated under the  
58 provisions of Sections 1, 2, and 3 among the student financial aid  
59 programs included herein, it is the intention of the Legislature  
60 that priority shall be given and funds shall be first allocated to

61 all students eligible for financial aid under the provisions of  
62 Sections 37-107-1 through 37-107-7 and Sections 37-108-1 through  
63 37-108-5, Mississippi Code of 1972.

64       **SECTION 7.** All funds provided for in this act shall be  
65 accounted for in a detailed statement showing when, to whom, and  
66 for what purpose applied, and this statement shall be submitted at  
67 the next regular session of the Legislature within ten (10) days  
68 after the convening thereof. A report of loans made and receipt  
69 of repayment of loans to the fund shall be reported. The amount  
70 of repayment that is in arrears shall also be included. Such  
71 report shall include the number of students at each institution  
72 receiving financial assistance and the amount of such assistance,  
73 and an estimate of the financial requirement of the various loan  
74 programs for the next year. No public or private institution of  
75 higher learning receiving funds under the respective provisions of  
76 this act, for the purpose of issuing scholarship grants or loans,  
77 shall issue any official transcripts for any persons who have any  
78 amount of repayment in arrears on that date such official  
79 transcript is requested.

80       Furthermore, all funds received and expended shall be  
81 reported and otherwise accounted for in accordance with the  
82 provisions of Section 37-143-21, Mississippi Code of 1972.

83       **SECTION 8.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
84 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2009 shall be submitted to  
85 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of  
86 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided  
87 during the Fiscal Year 2008 budget request process.

88       **SECTION 9.** Any funds appropriated pursuant to this act and  
89 paid as a fee to or deposited in a financial institution shall be  
90 in compliance with Section 109 of the Constitution of the State of  
91 Mississippi and Section 25-4-103, Mississippi Code of 1972.

92           **SECTION 10.** Of the funds appropriated under the provisions  
93 of Section 2, One Hundred Seventy-seven Thousand Five Hundred  
94 Sixty-three Dollars (\$177,563.00) shall be derived from the Health  
95 Care Expendable Fund created in Section 43-13-407, Mississippi  
96 Code of 1972.

97           **SECTION 11.** It is the intention of the Legislature that no  
98 new awards be made to the Family Medicine Education Loan  
99 Scholarship Program or the Family Medicine Loan Repayment Program  
100 in fiscal year 2008.

101           **SECTION 12.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
102 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
103 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
104 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
105 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
106 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
107 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
108 made without competitive bids.

109           **SECTION 13.** It is legislative intent to ensure beneficial  
110 information reaches as many Mississippians as possible. Further,  
111 it is legislative intent that the expenditure of public funds for  
112 this purpose be accomplished in an efficient and effective manner.

113           Therefore, state agencies as standard procedure, will observe  
114 the following criteria:

115           (1) Develop goals and desired result for a campaign.

116           (2) Evaluate effectiveness through respected advertising  
117 standards, including market reach and cost effectiveness.

118           (3) Seek public service announcements, which would be aired  
119 by media without cost.

120           (4) Itemize and justify professional assistance and related  
121 expenses for creative and production costs outside of the actual  
122 media expenditures.

123           (5) Utilize Mississippi owned media companies when feasible.

124           **SECTION 14.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
125 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
126 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
127 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
128 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
129 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

130           **SECTION 15.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
131 and after July 1, 2007.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and  
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1           AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF  
2 STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING FOR THE SUPPORT AND  
3 MAINTENANCE OF FINANCIAL AID SCHOLARSHIP, LOAN AND GRANT PROGRAMS  
4 AND THE MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID, FOR FISCAL  
5 YEAR 2008.

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X (SIGNED)  
Gordon

X (SIGNED)  
Stringer

X (SIGNED)  
Chaney

X (SIGNED)  
Gadd

X (SIGNED)  
Moffatt

X (SIGNED)  
Warren