

By: Representative Mettetal

To: Universities and
Colleges

HOUSE BILL NO. 1086

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-101-241, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REVISE THE PROVISIONS OF LAW REGARDING OVER WHICH SCHOOLS THE
3 COMMISSION ON COLLEGE ACCREDITATION MAY EXERCISE CERTAIN POWERS
4 AND AUTHORITY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-101-241, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 37-101-241. (1) There is hereby created the Commission on
9 College Accreditation. Said commission shall be composed of the
10 Executive Director of the State Board for Community and Junior
11 Colleges, the Commissioner of Higher Education, or their
12 designees, and three (3) additional members, one (1) of whom shall
13 be selected by the foregoing two (2) members and who shall
14 represent the private colleges within the state, and two (2) of
15 whom shall be selected by the Mississippi Association of Colleges.
16 The latter three (3) members shall each serve for a term of three
17 (3) years.

18 (2) The commission shall meet and organize by electing from
19 among its membership a chairman, a vice chairman and a secretary.
20 The commission shall keep full and complete minutes and records of
21 all its proceedings and actions.

22 (3) The commission shall have the power and authority, and
23 it shall be its duty, to prepare an approved list of community,
24 junior and senior colleges and universities or other entities
25 which offer one or more postsecondary academic degrees and are
26 domiciled, incorporated or otherwise located in the State of
27 Mississippi. Postsecondary academic degrees include, but are not
28 limited to, associate, bachelor, masters and doctorate degrees.



29 The commission shall adopt standards which are in keeping with the
30 best educational practices in accreditation and receive reports
31 from the institutions seeking to be placed on the approved list.

32 (4) The above-described community, junior and senior
33 colleges and universities or other entities must be approved
34 annually by the commission in order to grant diplomas of
35 graduation, degrees or offer instruction.

36 (5) The commission shall petition the chancery court of the
37 county in which a person or agent offers one or more postsecondary
38 academic degrees subject to the provisions of this chapter or
39 advertises for the offering of such degrees without having first
40 obtained approval by the commission, for an order enjoining such
41 offering or advertising. The court may grant such injunctive
42 relief upon a showing that the respondent named in the petition is
43 offering or advertising one or more postsecondary academic degrees
44 without having obtained prior approval of the commission. The
45 Attorney General or the district attorney of the district,
46 including the county in which such action is brought, shall, upon
47 request of the commission, represent the commission in bringing
48 any such action.

49 (6) The provisions of this subsection (5) shall not apply to
50 community, junior and senior colleges and universities with the
51 main campus in Mississippi that were chartered, authorized or
52 approved by the commission prior to July 1, 1988.

53 (7) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the
54 proprietary schools and colleges subject to regulation under
55 Section 75-60-1 et seq.

56 (8) The Commission on College Accreditation may promulgate
57 rules and regulations and establish appropriate fees for the
58 implementation of this section.

59 (9) The commission shall have the power and authority, and
60 it shall be its duty, to execute site visits when deemed necessary



61 by the commission. The members of the commission and
62 commission-appointed evaluation teams shall receive reasonable
63 traveling expenses and other authorized expenses incurred in the
64 performance of commission duties, together with other expenses of
65 the operation of the commission. The members of the Commission on
66 College Accreditation shall serve without salary compensation but
67 shall receive a per diem and mileage as authorized by law
68 including time of going to and returning from site visits of said
69 commission, together with actual travel and hotel expenses
70 incident to the site visits of the commission, and in the
71 discharge of duties prescribed by the commission.

72 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
73 and after July 1, 2012.

