

By: Representative Broomfield

To: Universities and Colleges

HOUSE BILL NO. 831

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE CERTAIN DISCLOSURE OF JOB PLACEMENT RATES,
2 CERTAIN QUALIFICATIONS OF INSTRUCTORS AND CERTAIN GRIEVANCE
3 PROCEDURES FOR PROPRIETARY SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES; AND FOR RELATED
4 PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** (1) Prior to enrollment, an institution subject
7 to the Mississippi Proprietary School and College Registration Law
8 shall provide a prospective student with statistics for job
9 "placement in the field" of study. The statistics provided shall
10 be based on all students who graduated from the program in the
11 last three (3) academic years. A placement may only be counted as
12 "placement in the field," if all of the following requirements are
13 met:

14 (a) The placement is in an occupation that the
15 institution has identified as one (1) of the specific occupations
16 for which the program was designed to prepare students, using the
17 United States Department of Labor's Standard Occupational
18 Classification codes.

19 (b) The skills obtained through the educational program



20 provided the student with a significant advantage in obtaining the
21 position.

22 (c) If no licensing examination is required for
23 employment in the field of study, the student is gainfully
24 employed in his or her field of study within six (6) months of
25 graduation. If employment in the field of study requires passage
26 of a licensing examination, the student must be gainfully employed
27 in his or her field of study within six (6) months of the
28 announcement of examination results for the first examination
29 available after graduation.

30 (d) The student is employed in a single position in his
31 or her field of study for at least thirteen (13) weeks, working at
32 least seventeen and one-half (17 1/2) hours per week in one (1) of
33 the occupations identified under paragraph (a) of this subsection.

34 The institution shall separately report placements for (i)
35 graduates working less than thirty-five (35) hours per week in a
36 single position in their fields of study, and (ii) graduates
37 working thirty-five (35) hours or more per week in a single
38 position in their fields of study. Institutions shall also make
39 available to prospective students a list of the employment
40 positions used to calculate the job placement rates.

41 (2) Institutions subject to the Mississippi Proprietary
42 School and College Registration Law shall ensure that all
43 instructors have a level of credentials appropriate to the courses
44 they teach. The minimum appropriate credentials are:



45 (a) For associate's degree courses not intended for
46 transfer to a baccalaureate program: a bachelor's degree in the
47 teaching discipline or an associate's degree and demonstrated
48 competence in the teaching discipline.

49 (b) For associate's degree courses intended for
50 transfer to a baccalaureate program: a master's degree in the
51 teaching discipline or a master's degree with a concentration (at
52 least eighteen (18) graduate semester hours) in the teaching
53 discipline.

54 (c) For general education courses at the undergraduate
55 level: a master's degree in the teaching discipline, or a
56 master's degree with a concentration (at least eighteen (18)
57 graduate semester hours) in the teaching discipline.

58 (d) For baccalaureate degree courses: a master's
59 degree in the teaching discipline, or a master's degree with a
60 concentration (at least eighteen (18) graduate semester hours) in
61 the teaching discipline.

62 (e) For graduate degree courses: a doctoral or
63 terminal degree in the teaching discipline or a related
64 discipline.

65 (3) (a) Students of institutions subject to the Mississippi
66 Proprietary School and College Registration Law shall have the
67 right to file complaints against the institution directly with the
68 Mississippi Commission of Proprietary Schools and College
69 Registration at any time. If the commission finds that the



70 student has not followed the institution's grievance process, the
71 commission may decline to act until the student has exhausted the
72 institution's process. However, the commission shall retain
73 records of all complaints, including those it declined to act
74 upon, and shall make such records available to the public with
75 personal identifying information of the student removed. If and
76 when the commission does take up a student's complaint, the
77 student shall be included in all meetings and copied on all
78 communications between the commission and the institution
79 regarding the complaint.

80 (b) Institutions subject to the Mississippi Proprietary
81 School and College Registration Law shall publish and implement
82 procedures for student grievances. The procedures shall not
83 require more than three (3) steps prior to providing a hearing.
84 No more than five (5) steps shall be required before adjudication
85 of the conflict is referred to the Commission of Proprietary
86 Schools and College Registration.

87 (c) Aggrieved parties shall be allowed representation
88 by attorneys or other representatives in grievance proceedings
89 with the institution or the commission.

90 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
91 and after July 1, 2013.

