

By: Senator(s) Polk

To: Universities and
Colleges

SENATE BILL NO. 2499
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO CONSOLIDATE AND CLARIFY TERMS AND CONDITIONS
2 RELATED TO MISSISSIPPI STUDENT FORGIVABLE LOAN PROGRAMS; TO AMEND
3 SECTION 37-106-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CLARIFY LEGISLATIVE
4 FINDINGS RELATED TO MISSISSIPPI FORGIVABLE LOAN PROGRAMS; TO AMEND
5 SECTION 37-106-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CLARIFY ELIGIBILITY
6 REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENT FORGIVABLE LOAN PROGRAMS; TO AMEND
7 SECTION 37-106-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE
8 APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS TO THE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
9 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BOARD; TO AMEND SECTION 37-106-11,
10 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD TO SEEK
11 COLLECTION COSTS AND ATTORNEY'S FEES AND TO REVISE THE MANNER IN
12 WHICH THE BOARD SHALL SUBMIT ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE REPORTS; TO CREATE
13 SECTION 37-106-12, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE FOR THE
14 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION TRUST FUND; TO CREATE SECTION 37-106-14,
15 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE USE OF FUNDS
16 APPROPRIATED FOR IMPLEMENTING FORGIVABLE LOAN PROGRAMS; TO AMEND
17 SECTION 37-106-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE THE
18 REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENT APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE; TO
19 AMEND SECTION 37-106-19, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CLARIFY WHO
20 MUST SIGN CONTRACTS FOR THE REPAYMENT OF FORGIVABLE LOANS; TO
21 AMEND SECTION 37-106-21, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CLARIFY AND
22 REVISE THE CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS ON DISBURSING FUNDS; TO
23 REPEAL SECTION 37-106-25, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH
24 AUTHORIZES THE BOARD TO EXPEND FUNDS FROM A FEDERAL GUARANTEED
25 STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM THAT IS NO LONGER IN OPERATION; TO AMEND
26 SECTION 37-106-29, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE
27 BOARD TO DETERMINE THE INSTITUTIONS WHERE A STUDENT MAY ATTEND FOR
28 PURPOSES OF THE MISSISSIPPI RESIDENT TUITION ASSISTANCE GRANT
29 PROGRAM; TO AMEND SECTION 37-106-31, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
30 CLARIFY TERMS AND CONDITIONS RELATED TO THE MISSISSIPPI EMINENT
31 SCHOLARS GRANT PROGRAM; TO REPEAL SECTION 37-106-33, MISSISSIPPI
32 CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDED FOR THE USE OF FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR
33 IMPLEMENTING FORGIVABLE LOAN PROGRAMS; TO AMEND SECTION 37-106-35,
34 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REESTABLISH AND CLARIFY TERMS AND



35 CONDITIONS RELATED TO THE ASSISTANT TEACHER FORGIVABLE LOAN
36 PROGRAM; TO AMEND SECTION 37-106-37, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
37 CLARIFY TERMS AND CONDITIONS RELATED TO THE TEACHER EDUCATION
38 SCHOLARS FORGIVABLE LOAN PROGRAM; TO CREATE SECTION 37-106-39,
39 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REESTABLISH AND CLARIFY TERMS AND
40 CONDITIONS OF THE MISSISSIPPI LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND
41 FIREFIGHTERS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; TO CREATE SECTION 37-106-41,
42 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REESTABLISH AND CLARIFY TERMS AND
43 CONDITIONS OF THE ARMED FORCES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; TO CREATE
44 SECTION 37-106-43, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REESTABLISH AND
45 CLARIFY TERMS AND CONDITIONS RELATED TO THE MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC
46 MANAGEMENT GRADUATE INTERN PROGRAM; TO CREATE SECTION 37-106-47,
47 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE
48 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BOARD; TO CREATE
49 SECTION 37-106-49, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE
50 BOARD TO EMPLOY A LOAN REPAYMENT MECHANISM FOR THE REPAYMENT OF
51 FORGIVABLE LOANS; TO CREATE SECTION 37-106-51, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
52 1972, TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONSOLIDATED REVOLVING
53 LOAN FUND FOR OPERATING FORGIVABLE LOAN PROGRAMS; TO CREATE
54 SECTION 37-106-53, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE FOR
55 UNIFORM REPAYMENT OPTIONS AND TERMS FOR FORGIVABLE LOAN PROGRAMS;
56 TO CREATE SECTION 37-106-55, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
57 REESTABLISH AND CLARIFY TERMS AND CONDITIONS RELATED TO THE
58 CRITICAL NEEDS TEACHER FORGIVABLE LOAN PROGRAM; TO CREATE SECTION
59 37-106-57, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REESTABLISH AND CLARIFY
60 TERMS AND CONDITIONS RELATED TO THE WILLIAM F. WINTER TEACHER
61 FORGIVABLE LOAN PROGRAM; TO CREATE SECTION 37-106-59, MISSISSIPPI
62 CODE OF 1972, TO REESTABLISH AND CLARIFY TERMS AND CONDITIONS
63 RELATED TO THE NURSING EDUCATION FORGIVABLE LOAN PROGRAM; TO
64 CREATE SECTION 37-106-61, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REESTABLISH
65 AND CLARIFY TERMS AND CONDITIONS RELATED TO THE STATE MEDICAL
66 FORGIVABLE LOAN PROGRAM; TO CREATE SECTION 37-106-63, MISSISSIPPI
67 CODE OF 1972, TO REESTABLISH AND CLARIFY TERMS AND CONDITIONS
68 RELATED TO THE STATE DENTAL FORGIVABLE LOAN PROGRAM; TO CREATE
69 SECTION 37-106-65, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REESTABLISH AND
70 CLARIFY TERMS AND CONDITIONS RELATED TO THE GRADUATE AND
71 PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL FORGIVABLE LOAN PROGRAM; TO CREATE SECTION
72 37-106-67, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REESTABLISH AND CLARIFY
73 TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS FORGIVABLE
74 LOAN PROGRAM; TO CREATE SECTION 37-106-69, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
75 1972, TO REESTABLISH AND CLARIFY TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE
76 FAMILY PROTECTION SPECIALIST SOCIAL WORKER FORGIVABLE LOAN
77 PROGRAM; TO CREATE SECTION 37-106-71, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
78 REESTABLISH AND CLARIFY TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE MISSISSIPPI
79 DYSLEXIA EDUCATION FORGIVABLE LOAN PROGRAM; TO CREATE SECTION
80 37-106-73, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REESTABLISH AND CLARIFY
81 TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS
82 FORGIVABLE LOAN PROGRAM; TO CREATE SECTION 37-106-75, MISSISSIPPI
83 CODE OF 1972, TO REESTABLISH AND CLARIFY TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF
84 THE HIGHER EDUCATION LEGISLATIVE PLAN GRANT PROGRAM; TO REPEAL
85 SECTIONS 37-107-1 THROUGH 37-107-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,



86 WHICH PROVIDED FOR THE MISSISSIPPI LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND
87 FIREFIGHTERS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM NOW PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION
88 37-106-39; TO REPEAL SECTIONS 37-108-1 THROUGH 37-108-5,
89 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDED FOR THE ARMED FORCES
90 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM NOW PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 37-106-41; TO
91 REPEAL SECTIONS 37-110-1 THROUGH 37-110-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
92 1972, WHICH PROVIDED FOR THE MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC MANAGEMENT
93 GRADUATE INTERN PROGRAM NOW PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 37-106-43; TO
94 REPEAL SECTIONS 37-143-1 THROUGH 37-143-21, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
95 1972, WHICH PROVIDED FOR THE OMNIBUS LOAN OR SCHOLARSHIP ACT OF
96 1991; TO REPEAL SECTIONS 37-157-1 AND 37-157-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE
97 OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDED FOR THE STUDENT TUITION ASSISTANCE
98 PROGRAM; TO REPEAL SECTION 37-159-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
99 WHICH PROVIDED FOR THE CRITICAL NEEDS TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
100 NOW PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 37-106-55; TO REPEAL SECTIONS
101 37-159-51 AND 37-159-53, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDED
102 FOR THE MISSISSIPPI DYSLEXIA EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; TO
103 REPEAL SECTION 37-101-221, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH
104 PROVIDED FOR THE INSTRUCTION OF MISSISSIPPI STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS
105 OUTSIDE THE STATE; TO AMEND SECTIONS 37-144-21 AND 97-15-29,
106 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM; TO CREATE SECTION 37-106-77,
107 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO ESTABLISH THE TEACHING FELLOWS
108 PROGRAM TO PROVIDE FOUR-YEAR SCHOLARSHIPS TO QUALIFIED STUDENTS
109 DECLARING AN INTENTION TO TEACH IN MISSISSIPPI; TO PROVIDE THAT
110 THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE BOARD
111 OF EDUCATION AND THE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
112 BOARD; TO PROVIDE FOR ELIGIBILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR EMPLOYMENT
113 REQUIREMENTS AND LIABILITY FOR FAILURE TO COMPLETE THE PROGRAM; TO
114 CREATE SECTION 37-106-79, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO ESTABLISH
115 THE TEACHER EDUCATION ALTERNATE ROUTE CERTIFICATION SCHOLARS
116 PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION FINANCIAL
117 ASSISTANCE BOARD; TO LIMIT THE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP A
118 QUALIFYING RECIPIENT MAY RECEIVE TO \$5,000.00; TO ESTABLISH THE
119 CRITERIA TO DETERMINE A SCHOLAR ELIGIBILITY FOR RECEIPT OF A
120 SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THE PROGRAM; TO PRESCRIBE THE RESPONSIBILITIES
121 OWED TO THE STATE UPON COMPLETION OF THE PROGRAM; TO PRESCRIBE THE
122 MANNER BY WHICH SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ARE REQUIRED TO REPAY THE
123 AMOUNTS PROVIDED UNDER THE PROGRAM IN THE EVENT OF FAILURE TO
124 PERFORM CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS; TO AUTHORIZE THE POSTSECONDARY
125 EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BOARD TO PROMULGATE RULES NECESSARY
126 TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM; TO AMEND SECTIONS 37-159-1, 37-159-5,
127 37-159-7, 37-159-9, 37-159-11, 37-159-13 AND 37-159-17,
128 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PHASE OUT THE MISSISSIPPI CRITICAL
129 TEACHER SHORTAGE ACT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AS STUDENTS ENTER THE
130 TEACHING FELLOWS PROGRAM, AND TO REPEAL THE MISSISSIPPI CRITICAL
131 TEACHER SHORTAGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020; AND
132 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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



134 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-106-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
135 amended as follows:

136 37-106-3. (1) The Legislature hereby finds and declares
137 that:

138 (a) By legislative enactment, programs are herein
139 created wherein Mississippi residents are granted forgivable loans
140 in certain professional fields in return for their contractual
141 obligation to perform services in such professions under a variety
142 of requirements of location, duration, manner and mode of service,
143 and institution in which performed;

144 (b) There is a need for the creation of additional
145 forgivable loan programs for the purpose of encouraging eligible
146 Mississippi residents to enter into professional schools, and
147 that, in particular, there should be programs to encourage the
148 participation of minorities in graduate professional programs in
149 the institutions of this state;

150 (c) There is a need to create an ability within the
151 board to fashion new and innovative systems for the financing of
152 forgivable loan programs by combining the use of private sector
153 loans for education and guaranteed student loans with loan
154 repayment programs promulgated by the board; and

155 (d) The board should be granted authority to devise and
156 develop such innovative systems to obtain the most efficient use
157 of state funds to encourage entry and service in certain
158 professional fields.



159 (2) The purpose of the Legislature in the passage of this
160 chapter is to make manifest the belief that the continued growth
161 and development of Mississippi requires that all Mississippi youth
162 be assured ample opportunity for the fullest development of their
163 abilities and to recognize that this opportunity will not fully
164 materialize unless the State of Mississippi moves to encourage and
165 financially assist our young people in their efforts. This
166 chapter shall be broadly construed to accomplish that purpose.

167 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-106-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
168 amended as follows:

169 37-106-5. (1) For purposes of this chapter, the following
170 words shall be defined as follows unless the context requires
171 otherwise:

172 (a) "Eligible applicant or eligible student" means an
173 individual who * * * completes an application by the published
174 application deadline for a given student financial assistance
175 program, meets all initial or continuing eligibility requirements
176 for the program and enrolls in an approved institution for the
177 given program.

178 (b) "Approved institution" means an institution of
179 higher learning, public or private, which is accredited by the
180 Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, or its
181 equivalent or a business, vocational, technical or other
182 specialized school recognized and approved by the Postsecondary
183 Education Financial Assistance Board.



184 (c) "Board" means the Postsecondary Education Financial
185 Assistance Board created by Section 37-106-9 authorized and
186 empowered to administer the provisions of this chapter.

187 * * *

188 (* * *d) "Financial need" means anticipated expenses
189 of an eligible student while attending an approved institution
190 which cannot reasonably be met by said student or by the parents
191 thereof as shall be determined according to the criteria
192 established by the rules and regulations of the board. Financial
193 need shall be reevaluated and redetermined at least annually.

194 (* * *e) "Agency" means the Board of Trustees of State
195 Institutions of Higher Learning.

196 (f) "Renewal applicant or renewal student" means a
197 student who previously received funding for a given program.

198 (g) "Resident," "resident status" or "residency" shall
199 be defined and determined in the same manner as resident status
200 for tuition purposes as set forth in Sections 37-103-1 through
201 37-103-29, with the exception of Section 37-103-17. Unless
202 excepted by the rules of a given program, an applicant must be a
203 Mississippi resident to qualify for financial assistance under
204 this chapter.

205 (h) "Dependent" shall be defined and used in the same
206 manner as the term "minor" in Sections 37-103-1 through 37-103-29.
207 The board will follow the federal guidelines for classifying a
208 student as "dependent" or "independent."



209 **SECTION 3.** Section 37-106-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, as
210 amended by House Bill No. 460, 2014 Regular Session, is amended as
211 follows:

212 37-106-9. (1) There is hereby created the Postsecondary
213 Education Financial Assistance Board which shall consist of the
214 following * * * nine (9) members and two (2) nonvoting advisory
215 members: * * * two (2) people to be appointed by the Board of
216 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, one (1) from
217 its membership to serve for an initial period of four (4) years
218 and one (1) institutional representative to serve for an initial
219 period of three (3) years; * * * two (2) people to be appointed by
220 the * * * Mississippi Community College Board, one (1) from its
221 membership to serve for an initial period of three (3) years and
222 one (1) institutional representative to serve for an initial
223 period of two (2) years; * * * two (2) people to be appointed by
224 the Governor, one (1) to serve for an initial period of two (2)
225 years and one (1) to serve for an initial period of one (1) year;
226 two (2) people to be appointed by the Executive Director of the
227 Mississippi Association of Independent Colleges and Universities,
228 one (1) association representative to serve for an initial period
229 of two (2) years and one (1) institutional representative to serve
230 for an initial period of one (1) year; and one (1) person to be
231 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor for an initial period of (4)
232 years. All subsequent appointments shall be for a period of four
233 (4) years. Vacancies shall be filled for the length of the



234 unexpired term only. The board shall elect from its membership a
235 chairman. Additionally, the Chairmen of the House and Senate
236 Universities and Colleges Committees shall serve as nonvoting
237 advisory members.

238 (2) The agency shall designate one (1) member of its staff
239 to serve as director, to administer the provisions of this
240 financial assistance program. The director shall be assigned by
241 the agency sufficient staff, professional and clerical, funds and
242 quarters to administer this program.

243 (3) The director:

244 (a) Subject to the review of the board, shall have the
245 power of final approval of any application submitted;

246 (b) Subject to the approval of the board * * *, shall
247 have authority to promulgate the necessary rules and regulations
248 for effective administration of this chapter, including the method
249 of making application for assistance authorized by this chapter.

250 **SECTION 4.** Section 37-106-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
251 amended as follows:

252 37-106-11. (1) The members of the board shall serve without
253 pay.

254 (2) The board is hereby vested with full and complete
255 authority and power to sue in its own name any person for any
256 balance, including principal * * *, interest * * * and reasonable
257 collection costs or attorney's fees, due and owing the state on
258 any uncompleted contract * * *.



259 (3) The board shall promulgate rules and regulations to
260 govern the state grant and forgivable loan programs authorized in
261 this chapter.

262 (* * *4) * * * All funds administered by the board shall be
263 accounted for in an annual report that shall be submitted to the
264 Legislature within ten (10) days after the convening thereof each
265 year. The report should detail for each grant or forgivable loan
266 program the number of recipients, the total amount of awards made,
267 and the average award amount. The report shall include the number
268 of students at each institution receiving financial assistance and
269 the amount of the assistance. For forgivable loan programs, the
270 report shall also include a summary of the repayment status and
271 method of repayment for student cohorts as well as an accounting
272 of the receipt of funds in repayment.

273 **SECTION 5.** The following shall be codified as Section
274 37-106-12, Mississippi Code of 1972:

275 37-106-12. (1) There is hereby created in the State
276 Treasury a special trust fund to be known as the Postsecondary
277 Education Financial Assistance Trust Fund. The trust fund shall
278 consist of all monies designated by the Legislature for deposit
279 therein and any gift, donation, bequest, trust, grant, endowment,
280 transfer of money or securities, or any other monies from any
281 source whatsoever, designated for deposit in the trust fund.

282 (2) The principal of the trust fund shall remain inviolate
283 and shall be invested by the State Treasurer in the same manner as



284 provided by Section 27-105-33, Mississippi Code of 1972, for the
285 investment of excess state funds. Interest and income derived
286 from investment of the principal of the trust fund shall be
287 appropriated by the Legislature for expenditure as provided in
288 this chapter.

289 **SECTION 6.** The following shall be codified as Section
290 37-106-14, Mississippi Code of 1972:

291 37-106-14. (1) The Legislature may appropriate funds
292 annually to implement, administer and make awards under the
293 programs provided for in this chapter. The board may seek, accept
294 and expend funds from any source, including private business,
295 industry, foundations and other groups as well as any federal or
296 other governmental funding available for this purpose.

297 (2) Subject to the availability of funds, it is the intent
298 of the Legislature to first fund grant awards to eligible
299 students. If funds are insufficient to fully fund grant awards to
300 eligible students, grant awards shall be prorated among all
301 eligible students. No student shall receive any combination of
302 student financial aid in excess of the cost of attendance. After
303 grant awards are made, it is the intent of the Legislature to fund
304 forgivable loan awards to eligible renewal students and then to
305 eligible new students on a first-come, first-served basis.

306 (3) At the end of the fiscal year, any unexpended balances
307 appropriated by the Legislature for the implementation or
308 administration of programs provided for in this chapter shall not



309 lapse into the State General Fund, but shall carry over and be
310 available for expenditure in the succeeding fiscal year, subject
311 to appropriation therefor by the Legislature.

312 **SECTION 7.** Section 37-106-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
313 amended as follows:

314 37-106-17. Any student desiring financial assistance * * *
315 shall submit an application to the board on an annual basis. The
316 director shall * * * adhere to the board's rules and regulations
317 promulgated under authority of this chapter in determining the
318 eligibility of each applicant and in administering the programs
319 authorized in this chapter. * * *

320 **SECTION 8.** Section 37-106-19, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
321 amended as follows:

322 37-106-19. Each eligible applicant before being granted
323 financial assistance through a forgivable loan program under this
324 chapter shall enter into a contract with the board, which shall be
325 deemed a contract with the State of Mississippi, agreeing to the
326 terms and conditions upon which the financial assistance shall be
327 granted to him, which shall include full repayment of all monies
328 granted. Said contract shall include such terms and provisions as
329 shall carry out the full purpose and intent of this chapter; and
330 the form shall be prepared and approved by the Attorney General of
331 this state, and shall be signed by * * * the director * * *
332 and * * * the applicant. All disabilities of minority are removed
333 for purposes of this chapter.



334 **SECTION 9.** Section 37-106-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
335 amended as follows:

336 37-106-21. Unless otherwise required to secure a guarantee
337 of a loan, all funds disbursed under the provisions hereof shall
338 be subject to the following conditions and limitations:

339 (* * * a) The annual award to any recipient may be paid
340 as required by federal laws and regulations governing the
341 Guaranteed Student Loan Program.

342 (* * * b) Payments under this chapter shall be made by
343 the State Treasurer upon certification by the board of final
344 approval of the recipient of each loan.

345 (* * * c) Payments shall be made directly to the
346 approved institution attended or to be attended by the student
347 named in such certificate by check or transfer of funds made
348 payable to * * * the institution * * * and accompanied by a
349 student roster.

350 (* * * d) In the event a student on whose behalf an
351 award has been paid shall not be enrolled and carrying a minimum
352 academic load or program as of the fifteenth classroom day
353 following the beginning of the term for which such award was paid,
354 the institution shall refund to the state the amount paid on
355 behalf of such student. If at any time during the period of the
356 loan, the student withdraws and is entitled to any refund or
357 remittance of fees or tuition, such amount shall be repaid into
358 the fund.



359 **SECTION 10.** Section 37-106-25, Mississippi Code of 1972,
360 which provided a preference for renewals, is repealed.

361 **SECTION 11.** Section 37-106-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, as
362 amended by House Bill No. 426, 2014 Regular Session, is amended as
363 follows:

364 37-106-29. (1) There is established the Mississippi
365 Resident Tuition Assistance Grant Program for college or
366 university freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors to be
367 administered by the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial
368 Assistance Board established under Section 37-106-9, Mississippi
369 Code of 1972, which shall set the dates and deadlines for applying
370 for an award under this section. The board shall establish such
371 rules and regulations as it deems necessary and proper to carry
372 out the purposes and intent of this section.

373 (2) The * * * board shall approve grants to full-time
374 freshmen, sophomore, junior and senior Mississippi residents who
375 meet the general requirements for student eligibility as provided
376 in subsection (4) of this section.

377 (3) Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grants shall be
378 for Mississippi resident students from any Mississippi family
379 whose prior year adjusted gross income (AGI) exceeds the maximum
380 allowed to qualify for full Pell Grant eligibility and
381 campus-based federal aid. Those Mississippi students * * *
382 qualifying for less than the full Pell Grant award * * * shall
383 receive a Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grant in an



384 amount not to exceed the maximum Pell Grant allowable for that
385 individual student. The award shall be applied to tuition, rooms
386 and meals, books, materials and fees not to exceed One Thousand
387 Dollars (\$1,000.00) for junior and senior students attending state
388 institutions of higher learning in Mississippi or four-year
389 regionally accredited, state-approved, nonprofit colleges and
390 universities in Mississippi, and Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00)
391 for freshmen and sophomores attending state institutions of higher
392 learning or public community or junior colleges in Mississippi, or
393 regionally accredited, state-approved, nonprofit two-year or
394 four-year colleges in Mississippi, which will be prorated per
395 term, semester or quarter of the academic year for costs of
396 attendance, calculated according to the formula specified in
397 subsection (8) of this section.

398 (4) The general requirements for initial eligibility of
399 students for Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grants
400 consist of the following:

401 (a) Member of a Mississippi family whose prior year
402 adjusted gross income (AGI) exceeds the maximum allowed to qualify
403 for Pell Grant eligibility and campus-based federal aid.

404 (b) Acceptance for enrollment at any state institution
405 of higher learning or public community or junior college located
406 in Mississippi, or any regionally accredited, state-approved,
407 nonprofit * * * two-year or four-year college or university
408 located in Mississippi * * * and approved by the board.



409 (c) Completion of a secondary education as follows:

410 (i) Graduation from high school verified by the
411 institution before disbursement of award with a minimum grade
412 point average of 2.5 calculated on a 4.0 scale after seven (7)
413 semesters as certified by the high school counselor or other
414 authorized school official on the application * * *; or

415 (ii) * * * Attendance at a home education program
416 during grade levels 9 through 12 * * *; or

417 (iii) Satisfactory completion of the * * * High
418 School Equivalency Diploma; or

419 (iv) * * * Successful completion of the
420 International Baccalaureate Program * * *.

421 (d) A minimum score of fifteen (15) on the ACT test
422 except that any student entering a vocational or technical program
423 of study, or who has satisfactorily completed the * * * High
424 School Equivalency Diploma Test and attends a community or junior
425 college will not be required to have a test score under the * * *
426 ACT unless a student enrolls in courses of academic study.

427 (e) Any student currently enrolled in any qualified
428 institution shall have to only meet the same requirements as
429 students who are applying for a renewal award.

430 * * *

431 (5) By accepting a Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance
432 Grant, the student is attesting to the accuracy, completeness and
433 correctness of information provided to demonstrate the student's



434 eligibility. Falsification of such information shall result in
435 the denial of any pending grant and revocation of any award
436 currently held to the extent that no further payments shall be
437 made. Any student knowingly making false statements in order to
438 receive a grant shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable, upon
439 conviction thereof, by a fine of up to Ten Thousand Dollars
440 (\$10,000.00), a prison sentence of up to one (1) year in the
441 county jail, or both, and shall be required to return all
442 Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grants wrongfully
443 obtained.

444 (6) Eligibility for renewal of Mississippi Resident Tuition
445 Assistance Grants shall be evaluated at the end of each semester,
446 or term, of each academic year. As a condition for renewal, a
447 student shall:

448 (a) Make steady academic progress toward a certificate
449 or degree, as outlined in the school Satisfactory Academic
450 Progress Standards and certified by the institution's registrar.

451 (b) Maintain continuous enrollment for not less than
452 two (2) semesters or three (3) quarters in each successive
453 academic year, unless granted an exception for cause by the
454 administering * * * board; examples of cause may include student
455 participation in a cooperative program, internship program or
456 foreign study program. If a student fails to maintain continuous
457 enrollment, and is not granted an exception for cause by the
458 administering * * * board, the student is ineligible to receive



459 the Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grant during the
460 following semester or trimester or term of the regular academic
461 year.

462 (c) Have a cumulative grade point average of at least
463 2.50 calculated on a 4.0 scale at the end of each semester or
464 trimester or term.

465 (7) Each student, each year, must complete a Free
466 Application for Federal Student Aid form or a Statement of
467 Certification as designed by the administering board to determine
468 his/her eligibility for a Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance
469 Grant.

470 (8) (a) The amount of the Mississippi Resident Tuition
471 Assistance Grant awarded to any one (1) student, up to the maximum
472 amount provided in subsection (3) of this section, shall be the
473 difference of the student's cost of attendance at his accredited
474 college of choice and the amount of federal aid such student may
475 receive, not to supplant but to supplement the amount of any
476 federal aid awarded to the student. Cost of attendance is the
477 tuition and fees of the applicable institution plus an allowance
478 for room and meals and books and materials.

479 (b) Payment of the Mississippi Resident Tuition
480 Assistance Grant shall be made payable to the recipient and the
481 educational institution and mailed directly to the institution, to
482 be applied first to tuition.



483 (9) In order for an institution to remain eligible for its
484 students to participate in the Mississippi Resident Tuition
485 Assistance Grant Program, the institution shall comply with the
486 following requirements:

487 (a) A complete and accurate roster of the eligibility
488 status of each awarded student shall be made to the board for each
489 term, semester or quarter of the academic year the student
490 receives a Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grant.

491 (b) The institution is required to make refunds to the
492 Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grant Fund for any funds
493 which have not been disbursed to the recipient, in the case of
494 students who have received a grant but who terminate enrollment
495 during the academic term, semester or quarter of the academic year
496 if an institution's refund policies permit a student to receive a
497 refund in such instance. The recipient shall be responsible for
498 the refund of any funds which have been disbursed by the
499 institution in such instance.

500 (c) If a student drops below full-time status but does
501 not terminate all enrollment during the term, semester or quarter
502 of the academic year no refund will be required for that term.
503 However, that student is ineligible to receive the Mississippi
504 Resident Tuition Assistance Grant during the following term,
505 semester or quarter of the regular academic year.

506 (d) The board may conduct its own annual audits of any
507 institution participating in the Mississippi Resident Tuition



508 Assistance Grant Program. The board may suspend or revoke an
509 institution's eligibility to receive future monies under the
510 program if it finds that the institution has not complied with the
511 provisions of this section. In determining a student's initial
512 eligibility, the number of prior semesters enrolled will not be
513 counted against the student.

514 (10) No student may receive a Mississippi Resident Tuition
515 Assistance Grant for more than the equivalent semesters or
516 quarters required to complete one (1) baccalaureate degree or one
517 (1) certificate or associate degree program per institution.

518 * * *

519 (* * *11) No student receiving a Mississippi Eminent
520 Scholars Grant as provided in Section 37-106-31 shall be eligible
521 to receive the Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grant
522 pursuant to this section * * * unless he is eligible for such
523 award after the Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant has been
524 considered by the board when conducting an assessment of the
525 financial resources available to the student. In no case shall
526 any student receive any combination of student financial aid that
527 would exceed the cost of attendance, as defined in subsection
528 (8) (a).

529 For purposes of this section, certificated shall mean, but
530 not be limited to, all postsecondary vocational programs in
531 eligible institutions * * * approved by the board.



532 **SECTION 12.** Section 37-106-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
533 amended as follows:

534 37-106-31. (1) There is created a Mississippi Eminent
535 Scholars * * * Grant Program, to be administered by the
536 Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board
537 established under Section 37-106-9. The board shall set the dates
538 that will serve as the deadlines for applying for an award under
539 this section and award scholarships to each Mississippi student
540 who:

541 (a) (i) Is recognized by the merit or achievement
542 programs of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation or the
543 National Achievement Scholarship as a semifinalist or finalist,
544 and has obtained a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5
545 calculated on a 4.0 scale in high school subjects acceptable for
546 credit toward a diploma, after seven (7) semesters certified by
547 the high school counselor or other authorized school official on
548 the application and graduation from high school verified by the
549 institution before disbursement of award; or

550 (ii) Has scored twenty-nine (29) on the American
551 College Testing Program or its equivalent and has obtained a
552 minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5 calculated on a 4.0
553 scale after seven (7) semesters certified by the high school
554 counselor or other authorized school official on the application
555 and graduation from high school verified by the institution before



556 disbursement of award, or the equivalent in high school subjects
557 acceptable for credit toward a diploma; or

558 (iii) Has attended a home education program during
559 grade levels 9 through 12 and has scored twenty-nine (29) on the
560 American College Testing Program or its equivalent. * * *

561 * * *

562 (b) Meets the general requirements for student
563 eligibility, except as otherwise provided in this section.

564 * * *

565 (* * * c) Files, before the deadline, an application
566 for an award during his last year in high school, or before the
567 expiration of the third school year succeeding the year of his
568 high school graduation.

569 (* * * d) Attends, on a full-time basis, any state
570 institution of higher learning or public community or junior
571 college, or any regionally accredited, state-approved,
572 nonprofit * * * two-year or four-year college or university
573 located in the State of Mississippi * * * approved by the board.

574 (* * * e) Enrolls * * * as a "first-time * * * in
575 college" student in Mississippi. * * * Postsecondary academic
576 credit earned prior to or during the summer immediately subsequent
577 to receiving a high school diploma, * * * or while dually enrolled
578 in secondary and postsecondary educational institutions, or * * *
579 while enrolled in the early admission program of a postsecondary
580 institution shall not be * * * considered when determining if a



581 student is enrolling for the first time. However, any student who
582 earns postsecondary academic credit at an institution of higher
583 learning located outside the state shall meet the requirements on
584 grade point average and maximum credit hours set forth in
585 subsection (2) (b) of this section.

586 (* * * f) Is a resident of the State of
587 Mississippi. * * *

588 (2) (a) Except for students who earn credits at
589 institutions of higher learning located outside the state,
590 students who apply for awards but do not accept their initial
591 awards may * * * apply to receive awards during subsequent
592 application periods occurring before the expiration of the third
593 school year succeeding the year of their high school graduation.
594 The eligibility of these applicants shall be determined in the
595 same manner as first-time applicants.

596 (b) * * * Students who receive initial awards and who
597 later do not accept renewal awards may * * * apply to receive
598 awards during subsequent application periods occurring before the
599 expiration of the third school year succeeding the year of their
600 high school graduation. * * * Reinstatement applications will be
601 accepted from these students according to dates set by the
602 Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance
603 Board. * * * The eligibility of * * * these applicants shall be
604 determined in the same manner as first-time applicants, except
605 that these students * * * shall be required to have maintained the



606 equivalent of a 3.5 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale
607 for all college work attempted and if the student attended an
608 out-of-state institution, to have completed no more than
609 thirty-six (36) credit hours. The board shall not make awards to
610 reinstatement applicants who submit applications that are received
611 after the deadline set by the Mississippi Postsecondary Education
612 Financial Assistance Board.

613 (* * *c) The board shall create a renewal application
614 for each student who received the award for one or more terms
615 during the immediately preceding academic year.

616 (3) (a) The annual award to a student shall be up to Two
617 Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) for tuition and fees.
618 Payment of the Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant shall be made
619 payable to the recipient and the educational institution and
620 mailed directly to the institution, to be applied first to
621 tuition.

622 (b) Within six (6) weeks of the end of regular
623 registration, inclusive of a drop-add period, institutions shall
624 certify to the board the eligibility status of each awarded
625 student. The eligibility status of each student to receive a
626 disbursement shall be determined by each institution as of this
627 date. Institutions shall not be required to reevaluate a
628 student's eligibility status after this date for purposes of
629 amending eligibility determinations previously made. However, an
630 institution shall be requested to make refunds for students who



631 receive award disbursements and terminate enrollment for any
632 reason during the academic term when an institution's refund
633 policies permit a student to receive a refund under the
634 circumstances.

635 (c) Institutions shall certify to the board the amount
636 of funds disbursed to each student and shall remit to the board
637 any undisbursed advances within sixty (60) days of the end of
638 regular registration.

639 (4) A recipient shall maintain the equivalent of a 3.5
640 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale, or shall maintain
641 an approved equivalent student progress evaluation plan, on at
642 least twelve (12) hours per quarter, trimester or semester in
643 order to be eligible for a continuation of the award. No student
644 may receive a Mississippi Eminent Scholars * * * Grant for more
645 than the equivalent semesters or quarters required to complete one
646 (1) degree or certificate program per institution. The award may
647 be renewed annually upon certification of eligibility by the
648 eligible institutions that the recipient meets the necessary
649 qualifications. If any recipient transfers from one university,
650 community college or junior college to another, his award will be
651 transferable, provided he is otherwise eligible for the award. If
652 a student fails to maintain continuous enrollment, and is not
653 granted an exception for cause by the administering * * * board,
654 the student is ineligible to receive the Mississippi Eminent



655 Scholars Grant during the following semester or trimester or term
656 of the regular academic year.

657 (5) The board may conduct its own annual audits of any
658 institution participating in the Mississippi Eminent Scholars
659 Grant Program. The board may suspend or revoke an institution's
660 eligibility to receive future monies under the program if it finds
661 that the institution has not complied with the provisions of this
662 section.

663 (6) For purposes of this section, certificated shall mean,
664 but not be limited to, all postsecondary vocational programs in
665 eligible institutions * * * approved by the board.

666 **SECTION 13.** Section 37-106-33, Mississippi Code of 1972,
667 which provided for the use of funds appropriated to support
668 certain programs, is repealed.

669 **SECTION 14.** Section 37-106-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
670 amended as follows:

671 37-106-35. (1) There is established the assistant
672 teacher * * * forgivable loan program for the purpose of assisting
673 eligible assistant teachers to become certificated teachers
674 through the awarding of * * * forgivable loans and to attract and
675 retain qualified teachers for those geographical areas of the
676 state and academic subject areas in which there exist a critical
677 shortage of teachers. The * * * forgivable loan program shall be
678 implemented and administered by the board * * * and is subject to



679 the availability of funds appropriated specifically therefor by
680 the Legislature.

681 (2) Under the assistant teacher * * * forgivable loan
682 program, qualified assistant teachers may be awarded financial
683 assistance in an amount that is equal to the actual cost of three
684 (3) three-hour academic courses per year. However, no assistant
685 teacher may receive assistance through the program for more than
686 fifteen (15) three-hour academic courses. An assistant
687 teacher * * * forgivable loan shall not be based upon an
688 applicant's * * * financial * * * need, and the receipt of any
689 other * * * forgivable loan or financial assistance shall not
690 affect an assistant teacher's eligibility under the program.

691 (3) In order to qualify for an assistant teacher * * *,
692 forgivable loan, an applicant must satisfy the following
693 requirements:

694 (a) The applicant must be employed full-time as an
695 assistant teacher with a local school district;

696 (b) The applicant must be accepted for enrollment at a
697 baccalaureate degree-granting institution of higher learning in
698 the State of Mississippi * * * that is regionally accredited and
699 approved by the board;

700 (c) The assistant teacher must maintain a minimum
701 cumulative grade point average of 2.5 calculated on a 4.0 scale
702 for all courses funded through the assistant teacher * * *
703 forgivable loan program; and



704 (d) The assistant teacher must have expressed in
705 writing a present intention to teach in a critical teacher
706 shortage geographic or academic subject area.

707 * * *

708 (* * *4) At the beginning of the school year next
709 succeeding the date on which a person who has received an
710 assistant teacher * * * forgivable loan obtains a baccalaureate
711 degree, that person shall begin to render service as a
712 certificated teacher in a school district or academic subject
713 area, or both, designated by the State Board of Education.
714 The * * * board shall establish by rule and regulation the
715 duration of teaching service due for recipients of * * *
716 forgivable loans based upon the number of academic hours funded
717 through the assistant teacher * * * forgivable loan program. * * *
718 Repayment and conversion terms shall be the same as those outlined
719 in Section 37-106-53.

720 **SECTION 15.** Section 37-106-37, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
721 amended as follows:

722 37-106-37. (1) There is created the Teacher Education
723 Scholars Forgivable Loan Program to be administered by the
724 board * * *. The program shall provide an annual * * * forgivable
725 loan not to exceed Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) for each
726 approved teacher education scholar who is enrolled in one of
727 Mississippi's public or private universities in the junior year
728 and is admitted into a teacher education program. Additionally,



729 the program shall provide an annual scholarship not to exceed
730 Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) for each approved teacher
731 education scholar who is enrolled in one (1) of Mississippi's
732 public or private universities in the freshman year and intends to
733 enter into a teacher education program.

734 (2) Qualifying teacher education scholars must hold a
735 minimum 28 ACT score and a 3.5 GPA.

736 (3) A student may receive a * * * forgivable loan from the
737 program for four (4) consecutive years if the student remains
738 enrolled full time in the program and makes satisfactory progress
739 toward a baccalaureate degree with a major in education.

740 (4) (a) If a teacher education scholar graduates and is
741 employed as a teacher by a Mississippi district school board, the
742 scholar is not required to repay the * * * forgivable loan amount
743 so long as the scholar teaches in a Mississippi public school.
744 The entire * * * forgivable loan amount shall be forgiven if the
745 scholar remains employed as a Mississippi public school teacher
746 for five (5) years.

747 (b) Any teacher who enters the education scholar
748 program and graduates, and is employed as a teacher by a
749 Mississippi public school board, in a school rated as "D" or
750 "F," * * * in addition to being exempt from the repayment of loan
751 requirement while employed as a Mississippi public school teacher,
752 such teacher education scholar shall also receive an annual salary
753 supplement of Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00) for each year the



754 scholar remains in the "D" or "F" school, up to a maximum of five
755 (5) years. Each scholar employed in a Mississippi public school
756 under the provisions of this paragraph shall endeavor, within the
757 five-year period of initial employment, to fulfill the necessary
758 requirements to acquire a Master Teacher certificate from the
759 National Board of Professional Teaching Standards, at which time
760 the scholar shall be eligible to receive an annual salary
761 supplement for such National Board Certified teachers under the
762 provisions of Section 37-19-7(2)(a)(i). However, if any teacher
763 education scholar graduate receiving an annual salary supplement
764 provided for in this paragraph (b) shall complete the
765 certification requirements to become a National Board Certified
766 teacher within the five-year period of eligibility for salary
767 supplementation, that teacher shall be entitled to only the annual
768 salary supplement provided for such National Board Certified
769 teachers, such that the teacher receives only one (1) annual
770 salary supplement of Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000.00).

771 (5) * * * Repayment and conversion terms shall be the same
772 as those outlined in Section 37-106-53.

773 * * *

774 (6) The board * * * shall promulgate such rules as are
775 necessary to administer the teacher education scholars program and
776 establish necessary eligibility criteria not specifically set
777 forth in this section.



778 **SECTION 16.** The following shall be codified as Section
779 37-106-39, Mississippi Code of 1972:

780 37-106-39. (1) There is established the Mississippi Law
781 Enforcement Officers and Firefighters Scholarship.

782 (2) Except as provided in this section, if any Mississippi
783 law enforcement officer, full-time firefighter or volunteer
784 firefighter shall suffer or has suffered fatal injuries or wounds
785 or become permanently and totally disabled as a result of injuries
786 or wounds which occurred in the performance of the official and
787 appointed duties of his or her office, his or her spouse, child or
788 children shall be entitled to an eight-semester scholarship
789 without cost, exclusive of books, food, school supplies, materials
790 and dues or fees for extracurricular activities, at any
791 state-supported college or university of his or her choice within
792 this state.

793 (a) No child shall be entitled to receive benefits
794 during any semester or quarter when said child has reached the age
795 of twenty-three (23) years on the first day of said semester or
796 quarter. However, any child who has begun the process of
797 acquiring college credits under the provisions of this section
798 prior to attaining the age of twenty-three (23) years shall be
799 entitled to the full eight-semester scholarship if his or her
800 college instruction was interrupted for any reason.

801 (b) Scholarship benefits shall not accrue hereunder to
802 any person if the wounds or injuries suffered by any law



803 enforcement officer, full-time firefighter or volunteer
804 firefighter are self-inflicted or if his death is self-induced.

805 (3) Eligibility for renewal of the scholarship shall be
806 evaluated each academic year at the end of each semester or term.
807 As a condition for renewal, a student shall:

808 (a) Make steady academic progress toward a certificate
809 or degree, as outlined in the school Satisfactory Academic
810 Progress Standards and certified by the institution's registrar;
811 and

812 (b) Have a cumulative grade point average of at least
813 2.5 calculated on a 4.0 scale at the end of each academic year.

814 (4) For the purposes of this section, these words and
815 phrases shall be defined as follows:

816 (a) "Mississippi law enforcement officers" shall be
817 defined as follows:

818 (i) "State highway patrolmen" means all law
819 enforcement officers, regardless of department or bureau, of the
820 Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol.

821 (ii) "Municipal police officers" means all law
822 enforcement officers of any municipality who are regular duty
823 personnel on full-time status, auxiliary or reserve officers, or
824 those serving on a temporary or part-time status.

825 (iii) "Sheriffs" and "deputy sheriffs" means all
826 law enforcement officers of full-time duty status on a regular
827 basis serving the sheriff's department of any county, deputy



828 sheriffs who are engaged in administrative or civil duty,
829 auxiliary or reserve deputies, or deputy sheriffs serving in a
830 temporary capacity or part-time basis.

831 (iv) "Constables" means all duly elected
832 constables of any beat of any county within the state while
833 actually engaged in the performance of their duties concerning the
834 criminal laws of the county and state.

835 (v) "Conservation officers" means all duly
836 appointed game wardens employed by the State of Mississippi on a
837 full-time duty status while actually engaged in the performance of
838 their duties concerning the game laws of the state.

839 (vi) "Alcoholic Beverage Control Division agents
840 and inspectors" means all duly appointed agents and investigators
841 of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Division of the Mississippi
842 Department of Revenue on a full-time duty status while actually
843 engaged in the performance of their duties concerning the
844 alcoholic beverage control laws of the state.

845 (vii) Members of the National Guard serving as
846 peace officers when ordered to state emergency duty under
847 authority vested in the Governor by the Constitution and laws of
848 the state.

849 (viii) "Tax commission scales enforcement
850 officers" means all duly appointed scales enforcement officers of
851 the Mississippi Department of Revenue on a full-time duty status
852 while actually engaged in the performance of their duties.



853 (ix) Duly appointed agents of the Mississippi
854 Bureau of Narcotics.

855 (x) Correctional, probation and parole officers
856 employed by the Mississippi Department of Corrections.

857 (b) "Mississippi full-time firefighters" shall be
858 defined as all firefighters employed by any subdivision of the
859 State of Mississippi on a full-time duty status while actually
860 engaged in the performance of their duties, and volunteer
861 firefighters shall be defined as any volunteer firefighter
862 registered with the State of Mississippi or a political
863 subdivision thereof on a volunteer firefighting status while
864 actually engaged in the performance of firefighting duties.

865 (c) "Child" or "children" means natural children,
866 adopted children or stepchildren.

867 (d) "Spouse" means a person who was, at the time of the
868 death of the decedent, legally married to a Mississippi law
869 enforcement officer, full-time firefighter, or volunteer
870 firefighter, or in the case of a law enforcement officer,
871 full-time firefighter or volunteer firefighter who suffered fatal
872 injuries or wounds, prior to or after March 13, 1990, who has not
873 remarried.

874 (5) (a) Any law enforcement officer, full-time firefighter
875 or volunteer firefighter claiming permanent and total disability
876 shall be qualified or disqualified for a claim under this section



877 based on examination and review of the following four (4)
878 documents:

879 (i) A letter from the officer's or firefighter's
880 former supervisor or employer stating whether the officer or
881 firefighter is disabled as a result of injuries or wounds that
882 occurred in the performance of the official duties of his office;

883 (ii) A statement from the officer's or
884 firefighter's physician stating whether the officer or firefighter
885 is disabled and the reason for that disability;

886 (iii) Verification from the Public Employees'
887 Retirement System; and

888 (iv) Verification from the Social Security
889 Administration.

890 (b) If the law enforcement officer, full-time
891 firefighter or volunteer firefighter suffered fatal injuries or
892 wounds, a claim under this section shall be based on examination
893 and review of the following two (2) documents:

894 (i) A letter from the officer's or firefighter's
895 former supervisor or employer stating whether he suffered fatal
896 injuries in the performance of the official duties of his office;
897 and

898 (ii) A death certificate.

899 (6) Any applicant qualified and desiring a scholarship under
900 the provisions of this section shall apply in writing to the
901 board. The board shall make inquiries into each application and



902 shall make the investigation as it deems proper to establish and
903 validate all claims before a scholarship is granted.

904 **SECTION 17.** The following shall be codified as Section
905 37-106-41, Mississippi Code of 1972:

906 37-106-41. (1) If any member of the armed services, whose
907 official house of record and residence is within the State of
908 Mississippi, is officially reported as being either a prisoner of
909 war or missing in action in Southeast Asia or has been a prisoner
910 of a foreign government as the result of a military action against
911 the United States naval vessel, Pueblo, his child or children
912 shall be entitled to an eight-semester scholarship without cost,
913 exclusive of books, food, school supplies, materials and dues or
914 fees for extracurricular activities at any state-supported college
915 or university of his choice within this state. However, no child
916 will be entitled to receive benefits during any semester or
917 quarter when said child has reached the age of twenty-three (23)
918 years on the first day of the semester or quarter.

919 (2) The provisions of this section shall apply to the child
920 or children of any member of the armed services who is officially
921 reported as being either a prisoner of war or missing in action in
922 Southeast Asia whose spouse was a resident of this state for a
923 period of not less than ten (10) years during her minority and is
924 a resident or physically resides within this state and does
925 continually reside within this state at the time of enrollment and



926 during the enrollment, and is a resident or physically resides
927 within this state as of April 9, 1973.

928 (3) It is further provided that the provisions of this
929 section shall apply to the child or children of any person who was
930 a resident of this state at the time he was inducted into the
931 Armed Forces of the United States of America and who is either a
932 former prisoner of war or officially reported as being a prisoner
933 of war or missing in action in Southeast Asia and who, or his
934 spouse if she was a resident of this state for a period of not
935 less than ten (10) years during her minority, is a resident of
936 this state and at the time of enrollment and during the enrollment
937 of his child or children at any state-supported college or
938 university in this state resided or resides in this state.

939 (4) Any applicant qualified and desiring a scholarship under
940 this section shall apply in writing to the board. The board shall
941 make inquiries into each such application and shall make the
942 investigation as it deems proper to establish and validate all
943 claims made under this section before a scholarship is granted.

944 **SECTION 18.** The following shall be codified as Section
945 37-106-43, Mississippi Code of 1972:

946 37-106-43. (1) There is hereby established an intern
947 educational program to be designated as the Mississippi Public
948 Management Graduate Intern Program to be administered by the board
949 through a program coordinator. The program shall consist of not
950 more than thirty-six (36) positions in the general fields of



951 public management, program analysis and public administration.
952 These positions shall not be included in the number of employees
953 allowed by law within a particular state agency. Graduate intern
954 students shall be temporarily assigned by the program coordinator
955 to specific state or local agencies and offices, including offices
956 of the Legislature. Each participating agency or office shall not
957 employ more than four (4) graduate intern students per year. To
958 qualify for the program, a student must (a) be enrolled as a
959 graduate student in a state university masters program in public
960 administration, public policy and administration, or criminal
961 justice administration; and (b) have committed himself to a field
962 of graduate study directly related to a state or local government
963 public managerial position.

964 (2) There is hereby created the Mississippi Intern Public
965 Management Education Council to consist of the following members:
966 The chairmen of the various departments of Mississippi
967 institutions of higher learning that offer graduate programs in
968 one of the following: public administration, public policy and
969 administration, and criminal justice administration. The council
970 shall elect from its membership a chairman, which shall be a
971 rotating, one-year appointment. The council shall meet at the
972 place and time designated by the chairman at least twice but no
973 more than six (6) times per year.

974 (3) The council shall adopt, amend and repeal the rules and
975 regulations as it deems necessary to establish standards and



976 ensure the orderly execution of the objectives of the intern
977 educational program, not inconsistent with the provisions of this
978 section. The regulations shall be submitted to the board for
979 implementation by the program coordinator. The council shall
980 review and evaluate the program on a yearly basis and submit its
981 findings to the program coordinator.

982 (4) There is hereby created the position of Program
983 Coordinator who shall be the Chief Administrative Officer of the
984 Mississippi Public Management Graduate Intern Program. The
985 program coordinator shall be appointed by and be an employee of
986 the agency.

987 (5) The program coordinator shall administer the policies of
988 the council and supervise and direct all technical activities of
989 the program. The coordinator shall select students to participate
990 in the program based upon the nominees of the participating state
991 institutions of higher learning. No participating university
992 shall be allotted less than three (3) intern students per year
993 unless the university nominates less than three (3) students. The
994 coordinator shall place the intern students in state or local
995 agencies which agree in writing to participate in the program.

996 (6) The program coordinator shall prepare and deliver to the
997 Legislature and to the Governor an annual report describing the
998 operation and progress of the Mississippi Public Management
999 Graduate Intern Program, including a detailed statement of
1000 expenditures and any recommendations the board may have.



1001 (7) It shall be the duty and responsibility of universities
1002 participating in the intern program to nominate qualified graduate
1003 students to the program and to keep the program coordinator fully
1004 apprised of the academic development of the intern student,
1005 including any change in the student's educational status.

1006 (8) State or local agencies participating in the intern
1007 program shall employ intern students with the expectation that
1008 they shall contribute to agency policy decisions, participate in
1009 managerial activities, and deliver agency services. Intern
1010 graduate students shall receive compensation on the basis of their
1011 professional work experience, but shall receive no less than Seven
1012 Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00) per month or Four Thousand Five
1013 Hundred Dollars (\$4,500.00) for a six-month work period. In
1014 addition to the salary, students shall be reimbursed for necessary
1015 expenses and mileage authorized by law for travel to seminars,
1016 workshops and training sessions, as well as other related
1017 professional travel expenses. When the student has received his
1018 graduate degree, the agency may offer him a permanent position
1019 with the state or local agency or office, assuming funding and
1020 position openings are available.

1021 (9) Intern students shall submit an evaluation of the intern
1022 program and an assessment of its educational value to the program
1023 coordinator at the end of each work period.

1024 **SECTION 19.** The following shall be codified as Section
1025 37-106-47, Mississippi Code of 1972:



1026 37-106-47. (1) The board is authorized and empowered to
1027 operate the following forgivable loan programs of like character,
1028 operation and purpose to the foregoing enumerated programs to
1029 encourage the participation of eligible worthy persons in courses
1030 of instruction in its institutions: Graduate Teacher Forgivable
1031 Loan, Counselor and School Administrator Forgivable Loan, Southern
1032 Regional Education Board Doctoral Scholars Forgivable Loan, and
1033 Veterinary Medicine Minority Forgivable Loan.

1034 (2) In furtherance of such power and authority, the board is
1035 authorized to adopt and implement rules and regulations declaring
1036 and describing the goals and objectives of such forgivable loan
1037 programs; to establish the eligibility requirements for entry into
1038 such program and required for continuing participation for
1039 succeeding years; to determine the maximum amount to be made
1040 available to recipients; to delineate the terms and conditions of
1041 contracts with recipients and establish the service requirements
1042 for such contracts, if any; to enter into contracts pertaining to
1043 such programs with recipients; to enter into loan agreements and
1044 other contracts with financial institutions or other providers of
1045 loan monies for forgivable loan and loan repayment participants;
1046 and to allocate and utilize such funds as may be necessary for the
1047 operation of such forgivable loan programs from the annual
1048 appropriation for student financial aid. In issuing rules and
1049 regulations governing the administration of the Graduate Teacher
1050 Summer Scholarship (GTSS) program, the board shall provide that



1051 certified teachers at the Oakley Youth Development Center under
1052 the jurisdiction of the Department of Human Services shall be
1053 fully eligible to participate in the program.

1054 **SECTION 20.** The following shall be codified as Section
1055 37-106-49, Mississippi Code of 1972:

1056 37-106-49. In connection with the forgivable loan programs
1057 administered by the board, and in addition to the funding of the
1058 same through the use of state funds, the board is authorized to
1059 establish a loan repayment mechanism employing agreements to repay
1060 private sector loans for education or guaranteed student loans.
1061 As an alternative to the forgivable loans administered by the
1062 board, the board is authorized to develop contractual relations
1063 with eligible applicants to repay, for and on behalf of the
1064 applicants, any or all outstanding private sector loans for
1065 education or guaranteed student loans, by undertaking to repay
1066 installments of interest and principal according to the
1067 requirement of the loans, so long as the applicants perform the
1068 terms of their loan or scholarship contracts with the board. The
1069 board may establish by rule and regulation the terms of the
1070 contracts so as to accomplish the purposes of the loan repayment
1071 programs, including, but not limited to: the maximum amount the
1072 board will undertake to repay; the maximum duration of the
1073 repayment arrangement or the period of required service; the
1074 geographical location for approved service; the nature of the
1075 service to be rendered; the needed professional occupations; the



1076 critical majors or subject areas of concentration; the criteria to
1077 determine need and the degree of need required for eligibility;
1078 and the scholastic achievement level required to be maintained by
1079 the student participants. The board may prescribe other rules and
1080 regulations as it deems necessary and proper to carry out the
1081 purposes and intent of this section.

1082 **SECTION 21.** The following shall be codified as Section
1083 37-106-51, Mississippi Code of 1972:

1084 37-106-51. The board is authorized to establish a
1085 consolidated revolving loan fund for the purpose of providing
1086 monies for the operation of all forgivable loan programs
1087 authorized to the board and for the purpose of providing monies
1088 for the operation of such other loan programs as may be deemed
1089 appropriate and authorized by the board from time to time for the
1090 furtherance of education of eligible applicants. The board shall
1091 be charged with the duty of directing the dispensing of such funds
1092 in a manner so as to best effectuate the purpose of this section.
1093 Any monies collected in the form of repayment of loans, both
1094 principal and interest, shall be deposited in this fund. The
1095 board is authorized to maintain such revolving fund in an official
1096 state depository and, in accordance with Section 27-105-21,
1097 Mississippi Code of 1972, shall invest such funds, less the amount
1098 required for current operation, at interest as required by said
1099 section. All interest earned on such investments shall likewise
1100 be deposited in said fund.



1101 From and after the effective date of this chapter [Laws,
1102 1991, Chapter 547, effective July 1, 1991], the sums maintained in
1103 the respective revolving funds being repealed by Chapter 547,
1104 Laws, 1991, or other revolving funds being maintained by the board
1105 shall become and constitute the monies of the consolidated
1106 revolving fund created by this section, wherever such funds may be
1107 physically located. The board is hereby authorized to transfer
1108 said funds to an official state depository, as aforesaid.

1109 **SECTION 22.** The following shall be codified as Section
1110 37-106-53, Mississippi Code of 1972:

1111 37-106-53. (1) Forgivable loans shall be made and based
1112 upon the following options for repayment or conversion to
1113 interest-free scholarships:

1114 (a) Payment in full of principal plus a penalty of five
1115 percent (5%) of the principal and interest on the combined
1116 principal and penalty must be made in monthly installments, the
1117 maximum number of which will be determined by the board, unless
1118 set forth in this chapter. Interest will begin to accrue at the
1119 date of separation from the approved program of study at a rate
1120 equal to the unsubsidized Federal Stafford loan rate at the time
1121 of separation. Repayment will commence one (1) month after
1122 separation from the program of study, unless the recipient is
1123 granted a grace period or deferment by the board. The
1124 availability and length of a grace period will be determined by



1125 the board. The availability and length of any deferments will be
1126 determined by the board.

1127 (b) In lieu of payment in full of both principal and
1128 interest, a loan recipient may elect to repay by entry into
1129 service employment. Service requirements for each forgivable loan
1130 program will be determined by the board, unless set forth in this
1131 chapter. Unless excepted by this chapter, repayment under this
1132 option shall convert loan to scholarship, and discharge the same,
1133 on the basis of one (1) year's full-time service for one (1)
1134 year's loan amount or its equivalent if the recipient attended
1135 part-time, or the appropriate proportion of the total outstanding
1136 balance of principal and interest, all as shall be established by
1137 rule and regulation of the board. The period of service shall in
1138 no event be less than one (1) year. If at any time prior to the
1139 repayment in full of the total obligation the recipient abandons
1140 or abrogates repayment by this option, the provisions of Section
1141 37-106-53(1)(c) shall apply.

1142 (c) In the event of abandonment or abrogation of the
1143 option for repayment as provided for in Section 37-106-53(1)(b),
1144 the remaining balance of unpaid or undischarged principal plus a
1145 penalty of five percent (5%) of the unpaid or undischarged
1146 principal and interest on the combined principal and penalty shall
1147 become due and payable over the remaining period of time as if the
1148 option provided for in Section 37-106-53(1)(a) had been elected



1149 upon separation and the conclusion of any applicable grace and
1150 deferment periods.

1151 (2) Any person failing to complete a program of study which
1152 will enable that person to enter service employment, or failing to
1153 obtain any required licensure or additional credentials necessary
1154 for that person to enter service employment shall become liable to
1155 the board for the sum of all forgivable loan awards made to that
1156 person plus a penalty of five percent (5%) of the loan awards and
1157 interest on the combined amount accruing at the current
1158 unsubsidized Federal Stafford loan rate at the time the person
1159 abrogates his participation in the program.

1160 (3) If a claim for payment under this subsection is placed
1161 in the hands of a collection agency or an attorney for collection,
1162 the obligor shall be liable for an additional amount equal to a
1163 reasonable collection commission or attorney's fee as well as any
1164 court costs.

1165 (4) The obligations made by the recipient of a forgivable
1166 loan award shall not be voidable by reason of the age of the
1167 student at the time of receiving the scholarship.

1168 **SECTION 23.** The following shall be codified as Section
1169 37-106-55, Mississippi Code of 1972:

1170 37-106-55. (1) There is established the "Critical Needs
1171 Teacher Forgivable Loan Program," the purpose of which is to
1172 attract qualified teachers to those geographical areas of the
1173 state and those subject areas of the curriculum where there exists



1174 a critical shortage of teachers by awarding forgivable loans to
1175 persons declaring an intention to serve in the teaching field who
1176 actually render service to the state while possessing an
1177 appropriate teaching license.

1178 (2) Individuals shall not be eligible to enroll in the
1179 Critical Needs Teacher Scholarship Program after the 2014-2015
1180 academic year, and in subsequent years individuals are encouraged
1181 to apply to the Teaching Fellows Program established in Section
1182 37-106-77. Any individual who is enrolled in or accepted for
1183 enrollment at a teacher education program approved by the State
1184 Board of Education or other program at a baccalaureate
1185 degree-granting institution of higher learning in the State of
1186 Mississippi and has a passing score on the Praxis I Basic Skills
1187 Test who expresses in writing an intention to teach in a
1188 geographical area of the state or a subject area of the public
1189 school curriculum in which there exists a critical shortage of
1190 teachers, as designated by the State Board of Education, shall be
1191 eligible for a forgivable loan to be applied toward the costs of
1192 the individual's college education. The annual amount of the
1193 award shall be equal to the total cost for tuition, room and
1194 meals, books, materials and fees at the college or university in
1195 which the student is enrolled, not to exceed an amount equal to
1196 the highest total cost of tuition, room and meals, books,
1197 materials and fees assessed by a state institution of higher
1198 learning during that school year. Awards made to nonresidents of



1199 the state shall not include any amount assessed by the college or
1200 university for out-of-state tuition.

1201 (3) Awards granted under the Critical Needs Teacher
1202 Forgivable Loan Program shall be available to both full-time and
1203 part-time students. Students enrolling on a full-time basis may
1204 receive a maximum of two (2) annual awards. The maximum number of
1205 awards that may be made to students attending school on a
1206 part-time basis, and the maximum time period for part-time
1207 students to complete the number of academic hours necessary to
1208 obtain a baccalaureate degree in education, shall be established
1209 by rules and regulations promulgated by the board. Critical Needs
1210 Teacher Forgivable Loans shall not be based upon an applicant's
1211 financial need.

1212 (4) Awards granted under the Critical Needs Teacher
1213 Forgivable Loan Program shall be made available to nontraditional
1214 licensed teachers showing a documented need for student loan
1215 repayment and employed in those school districts designated by the
1216 State Board of Education as a geographical area of the state or in
1217 a subject area of the curriculum in which there is a critical
1218 shortage of teachers. The maximum annual amount of this repayment
1219 should not exceed Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00) and the
1220 maximum time period for repayment shall be no more than four (4)
1221 years.

1222 (5) Except in those cases where employment positions may not
1223 be available upon completion of licensure requirements, at the



1224 beginning of the first school year in which a recipient of a
1225 Critical Needs Teacher Forgivable Loan is eligible for employment
1226 as a licensed teacher or a nontraditional teacher intern pursuant
1227 to Section 37-3-2(6)(b), that person shall begin to render service
1228 as a licensed teacher or nontraditional teacher intern in a public
1229 school district in a geographical area of the state or a subject
1230 area of the curriculum where there is a critical shortage of
1231 teachers, as approved by the State Board of Education.

1232 (6) Failure to repay any loan and interest that becomes due
1233 shall be cause for the revocation of a person's teaching license
1234 by the State Board of Education.

1235 (7) Repayment and conversion terms shall be the same as
1236 those outlined in Section 37-106-53.

1237 (8) The board shall promulgate rules and regulations
1238 necessary for the proper administration of the Critical Needs
1239 Teacher Forgivable Loan Program.

1240 (9) The State Board of Education shall compile and report,
1241 in consultation with the board, an annual report with findings and
1242 recommendations to the legislative committees on education by
1243 December 1, 2003, and annually thereafter, on the following:

1244 (a) The number of participants in the Critical Needs
1245 Teacher Forgivable Loan Program, by institution and by freshman,
1246 sophomore, junior and senior level;

1247 (b) The number of nontraditional teacher license
1248 program participants;



1249 (c) The number of individuals who completed the
1250 Critical Needs Teacher Forgivable Loan Program and the school
1251 district in which they are employed;

1252 (d) The number of individuals who are in default of
1253 their obligation under the Critical Needs Teacher Forgivable Loan
1254 Program and the status of their obligation;

1255 (e) The number of participants in the program who have
1256 successfully completed the Praxis examination in their junior
1257 year; and

1258 (f) The number of noneducation majors participating in
1259 the program.

1260 (10) Where local school districts exhibit financial need,
1261 the State Department of Education may, subject to the availability
1262 of funds specifically appropriated therefor by the Legislature,
1263 provide financial assistance for the recruitment of certified
1264 teachers in an amount not to exceed Seventy-five Thousand Dollars
1265 (\$75,000.00) annually.

1266 This section shall stand repealed July 1, 2020.

1267 **SECTION 24.** The following shall be codified as Section
1268 37-106-57, Mississippi Code of 1972:

1269 37-106-57. (1) It is the intention of the Legislature to
1270 attract and retain qualified teachers by awarding incentive loans
1271 to persons declaring an intention to serve in the teaching field
1272 and who actually render service to the state while possessing an
1273 appropriate teaching license.



1274 (2) There is established the "William F. Winter Teacher
1275 Forgivable Loan Program."

1276 (3) Subject to the availability of funds, students who are
1277 enrolled in any baccalaureate degree-granting institution of
1278 higher learning in the State of Mississippi that is regionally
1279 accredited and approved by the board and who have expressed in
1280 writing a present intention to teach in Mississippi shall be
1281 eligible for student loans to be applied to the costs of their
1282 college education. Persons who have been admitted to a teacher
1283 education program or a nontraditional teacher internship licensure
1284 program authorized under Section 37-3-2(6)(b), as approved by the
1285 State Board of Education, shall also qualify for loans at approved
1286 institutions. The board shall provide that teacher education
1287 majors and noneducation majors shall have equal access to
1288 forgivable loans under authority of this section.

1289 (4) A junior establishing initial eligibility shall be
1290 eligible for a maximum of two (2) annual loans and a senior shall
1291 be eligible for one (1) annual loan.

1292 (5) The maximum annual loan shall be set by the board at an
1293 amount not to exceed the cost of attendance at any baccalaureate
1294 degree-granting institution of higher learning in the State of
1295 Mississippi. However, it is the intent of the Legislature that
1296 the maximum annual loan amounts under the William F. Winter
1297 Teacher Forgivable Loan Program shall not be of such amounts that



1298 would compete with the Critical Needs Teacher Forgivable Loan
1299 Program.

1300 (6) The loans of persons who actually render service as
1301 licensed teachers or nontraditional teacher interns authorized
1302 under Section 37-3-2(6)(b) in a public school, including a charter
1303 school, in Mississippi for a major portion of the school day for
1304 at least seventy-eight (78) school days shall be converted to
1305 interest-free scholarships. Repayment and conversion terms shall
1306 be the same as those outlined in Section 37-106-53.

1307 (7) Failure to repay any loan and interest that becomes due
1308 shall be cause for the revocation of a person's teaching license
1309 by the State Department of Education.

1310 (8) The board shall promulgate regulations necessary for the
1311 proper administration of this section.

1312 **SECTION 25.** The following shall be codified as Section
1313 37-106-59, Mississippi Code of 1972:

1314 37-106-59. (1) There is created a forgivable loan program
1315 for baccalaureate study in nursing. Forgivable loans are
1316 established and shall be allocated to students who: (a) are
1317 accepted and enrolled in an accredited Mississippi School of
1318 Nursing approved by the board; (b) complete an application by the
1319 deadline established by the board; and (c) enter into contract
1320 with the board, obligating themselves to pursue to completion the
1321 course of study agreed upon, and following the completion of such
1322 work, to spend a period of time in teaching nursing at any



1323 accredited school of nursing in Mississippi, approved by the
1324 board, or in performing other work in the interest of public
1325 health in the state, to be approved by the board. Repayment and
1326 conversion terms shall be the same as outlined in Section
1327 37-106-53.

1328 (2) There is created a program for advanced study in
1329 nursing. Forgivable loans are established and shall be allocated
1330 to students who: (a) have graduated from an accredited high
1331 school and from a school of nursing and are licensed registered
1332 nurses in Mississippi; and (b) are approved by the board; and (c)
1333 enter into contract with the board, obligating themselves to
1334 pursue to completion the course of study agreed upon, and
1335 immediately following the completion of such work, to spend a
1336 period of time, equal to the period of study provided under the
1337 scholarship, in teaching nursing at any accredited school of
1338 nursing in Mississippi, approved by the board, or in performing
1339 other work in the interest of public health in the state, to be
1340 approved by the board. Repayment and conversion terms shall be
1341 the same as outlined in Section 37-106-53.

1342 (3) In addition to a forgivable loan, any such student may
1343 be allocated a loan not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00)
1344 per month for each month of full-time study in a graduate nursing
1345 program. The repayment of the principal and interest of such
1346 loans shall be eligible for deferment during attendance as a
1347 full-time student in an approved program for advanced study in an



1348 accredited school of nursing. For any student who receives this
1349 loan, the student's contract with the board shall obligate the
1350 student, immediately following completion of the course of study,
1351 to repay the loan by teaching nursing for not less than two (2)
1352 years at any accredited school of nursing in Mississippi approved
1353 by the board. Repayment and conversion terms shall be the same as
1354 those outlined in Section 37-106-53, except that teaching service
1355 shall convert the loan to an interest-free scholarship, and
1356 discharge the same, on the basis of two (2) years of service for
1357 one (1) year's loan amount, or the appropriate proportion of the
1358 total outstanding balance of principal and interest, all as
1359 established by rule and regulation of the board.

1360 (4) The board shall establish the rules and regulations as
1361 it deems necessary and proper to carry out the purposes and intent
1362 of this section.

1363 **SECTION 26.** The following shall be codified as Section
1364 37-106-61, Mississippi Code of 1972:

1365 37-106-61. (1) There is hereby created the state medical
1366 forgivable loan program. The purpose of such program shall be to
1367 enable eligible applicants who desire to become physicians to
1368 obtain a medical education in the University of Mississippi School
1369 of Medicine, which will qualify them to become licensed,
1370 practicing physicians and surgeons.

1371 (2) The board shall establish, by rule and regulation, the
1372 maximum annual award which may be made under this program at an



1373 amount not to exceed the cost of tuition and other expenses, and
1374 shall establish the maximum number of awards which may be made not
1375 to exceed the length of time required to complete the degree
1376 requirements and internship or residency.

1377 (3) Repayment and conversion terms shall be the same as
1378 those outlined in Section 37-106-53 and shall include the
1379 following:

1380 (a) Payment in full of principal and interest must be
1381 made in sixty (60) or less equal monthly installments;

1382 (b) In lieu of payment in full of both principal and
1383 interest, a loan recipient may elect to repay by entry into public
1384 health work at a state health institution as defined in Section
1385 37-106-67(2), or community health centers that are grantees under
1386 Section 330 of the United States Public Health Service Act;

1387 (c) In lieu of payment in full of both principal and
1388 interest, a loan recipient may elect to repay by entry into the
1389 practice of medicine in a primary health care field in an area
1390 outside of a metropolitan statistical area, as defined and
1391 established by the United States Census Bureau, and within a
1392 region ranking between 1 and 54, inclusively, on the Relative
1393 Needs Index of Five Factors for Primary Care Physicians, as
1394 annually determined by the State Board of Health, for a period of
1395 five (5) years.



1396 (4) The board shall establish the rules and regulations as
1397 it deems necessary and proper to carry out the purposes and intent
1398 of this section.

1399 **SECTION 27.** The following shall be codified as Section
1400 37-106-63, Mississippi Code of 1972:

1401 37-106-63. (1) There is hereby created the state dental
1402 forgivable loan program. The purpose of the program shall be to
1403 enable eligible applicants who desire to become dentists to obtain
1404 a standard four-year education in the study of dentistry in the
1405 University of Mississippi School of Dentistry, which will qualify
1406 them to become licensed, practicing dentists.

1407 (2) The board shall establish, by rule and regulation, the
1408 maximum annual award which may be made under this program at an
1409 amount not to exceed the cost of tuition and other expenses, and
1410 shall establish the maximum number of awards, which may be made
1411 not to exceed the length of time required to complete the degree
1412 requirements.

1413 (3) Repayment and conversion terms shall be the same as
1414 those outlined in Section 37-106-53 and shall include the
1415 following:

1416 (a) Payment in full of principal and interest must be
1417 made in sixty (60) or less equal monthly installments;

1418 (b) In lieu of payment in full of both principal and
1419 interest, a loan recipient may elect to repay by entry into public
1420 health work at a state health institution as defined in Section



1421 37-106-67(2), or community health centers that are grantees under
1422 Section 330 of the United States Public Health Service Act;

1423 (c) In lieu of payment in full of both principal and
1424 interest, a loan recipient may elect to repay by entry into the
1425 practice of dentistry in an area outside of a metropolitan
1426 statistical area, as defined and established by the United States
1427 Census Bureau, and within a region ranking between 1 and 54,
1428 inclusively, on the Relative Needs Index of Four Factors for
1429 Dentists, as annually determined by the State Board of Health, for
1430 a period of five (5) years.

1431 (4) The board shall establish the rules and regulations as
1432 it deems necessary and proper to carry out the purposes and intent
1433 of this section.

1434 **SECTION 28.** The following shall be codified as Section
1435 37-106-65, Mississippi Code of 1972:

1436 37-106-65. The board, under such rules and regulations as it
1437 shall determine may provide forgivable loans for instruction in
1438 graduate and professional schools for qualified students, who are
1439 residents of Mississippi, in institutions outside the state
1440 boundaries, when such instruction is not available for them in the
1441 regularly supported Mississippi institutions of higher learning.
1442 The board shall, by its rules and regulations, determine the
1443 qualifications of such students as may be aided by this section,
1444 and the decision by the board as to the qualifications of such
1445 students shall be final. Subject to the availability of funding,



1446 the board shall provide forgivable loans for such graduate and
1447 professional instruction at a cost to students, not exceeding the
1448 cost, as estimated by the board, of such instruction, if it were
1449 available at a state supported institution of higher learning in
1450 the State of Mississippi. Repayment and conversion terms shall be
1451 the same as those outlined in Section 37-106-53.

1452 **SECTION 29.** The following shall be codified as Section
1453 37-106-67, Mississippi Code of 1972:

1454 37-106-67. (1) There is established a health care
1455 professions' forgivable loan program. It is the intent of the
1456 Legislature that persons declaring an intention to work at certain
1457 state health institutions as nurses, nurse practitioners, speech
1458 pathologists, psychologists, occupational therapists and physical
1459 therapists shall be eligible for a loan for the purpose of
1460 acquiring an education in such professions. The board shall enter
1461 into contracts with applicants, providing that such loans may be
1462 discharged by working as a health care professional in a state
1463 health institution, as defined in this section. Repayment and
1464 conversion terms shall be the same as those outlined in Section
1465 37-106-53.

1466 (2) "State health institution" shall mean any of the
1467 following: any facility or program operated by the Department of
1468 Mental Health; the State Board of Health; mental
1469 health/intellectual disability facilities under the administration
1470 of a regional commission as established under Section 41-19-31



1471 which are certified by the Department of Mental Health; and health
1472 care facilities under the Department of Corrections.

1473 (3) The board shall establish rules and regulations as it
1474 deems necessary and proper to carry out the purposes and intent of
1475 this section.

1476 **SECTION 30.** The following shall be codified as Section
1477 37-106-69, Mississippi Code of 1972:

1478 37-106-69. (1) There is established a forgivable loan
1479 program to encourage family protection workers employed by the
1480 Department of Human Services to obtain the college education
1481 necessary to become licensed as a social worker, master social
1482 worker or certified social worker and become a family protection
1483 specialist for the department.

1484 (2) Any person who is employed as a family protection worker
1485 for the Department of Human Services shall be eligible for a
1486 forgivable loan from the board which shall be used to pay the
1487 costs of the person's education at a state institution of higher
1488 learning in Mississippi to obtain a college degree that is
1489 necessary to become licensed as a social worker, master social
1490 worker or certified social worker and become a family protection
1491 specialist for the department. The annual amount of a forgivable
1492 loan award under the program shall be equal to the total cost of
1493 tuition and fees at the college or university in which the student
1494 is enrolled, not to exceed an amount equal to the highest total



1495 cost of tuition and fees assessed by a state institution of higher
1496 learning during that school year.

1497 (3) Forgivable loans made under the program shall be
1498 available to both full-time and part-time students. Students
1499 enrolling on a full-time basis may receive a maximum of two (2)
1500 annual awards. The maximum number of forgivable loans that may be
1501 made to students attending school on a part-time basis, and the
1502 maximum time period for part-time students to complete the number
1503 of academic hours necessary to obtain the necessary degree, shall
1504 be established by rules and regulations of the board. Forgivable
1505 loans made under the program shall not be based upon an
1506 applicant's financial need. A student must maintain a "C" average
1507 or higher in his or her college coursework in order to continue
1508 receiving the forgivable loan.

1509 (4) Repayment and conversion terms shall be the same as
1510 those outlined in Section 37-106-53, except for the following:

1511 (a) After a person who received a forgivable loan under
1512 the program has obtained a college degree that is necessary to
1513 become licensed as a social worker, master social worker or
1514 certified social worker and has received such a license from the
1515 Board of Examiners for Social Workers and Marriage and Family
1516 Therapists, the person shall render service as a family protection
1517 specialist for the Department of Human Services for a period of
1518 not less than three (3) years from the date that the person became
1519 a family protection specialist;



1520 (b) Any person who fails to complete his or her service
1521 obligation as a family protection specialist for the Department of
1522 Human Services for not less than three (3) years, as required
1523 under subsection (4)(a) of this section, shall become liable
1524 immediately to the board for the sum of all forgivable loan awards
1525 made to that person, plus interest accruing at the current
1526 Stafford Loan rate at the time the person discontinues his or her
1527 service.

1528 (5) It is the intent of the Legislature that the pursuit of
1529 necessary college education by family protection workers through
1530 the forgivable loan program shall not interfere with the duties of
1531 the family protection workers with the Department of Human
1532 Services. The department shall promulgate regulations regarding
1533 family protection workers who participate in the forgivable loan
1534 program to ensure that such participation does not interfere with
1535 their duties with the department.

1536 (6) The board shall promulgate rules and regulations
1537 necessary for the proper administration of the forgivable loan
1538 program established under this section. The board shall be the
1539 administering agency of the program.

1540 (7) The total amount of state funds that may be expended for
1541 this program shall not exceed Three Hundred Twenty Thousand
1542 Dollars (\$320,000.00) in any fiscal year.

1543 **SECTION 31.** The following shall be codified as Section
1544 37-106-71, Mississippi Code of 1972:



1545 37-106-71. (1) There is established the Mississippi
1546 Dyslexia Education Forgivable Loan Program for the purpose of
1547 identifying and recruiting qualified university and college
1548 students from the state for schooling in education with a focus on
1549 dyslexia therapy.

1550 (2) The receipt of a forgivable loan under the program shall
1551 be solely limited to those students who are enrolled in or who
1552 have been accepted for enrollment into a master's degree program
1553 of study for dyslexia therapy at any public or private institution
1554 of higher learning within the State of Mississippi at the time an
1555 application for a forgivable loan is filed with the board.

1556 (3) The annual amount of the forgivable loan award shall be
1557 equal to the total cost for tuition, materials and fees at the
1558 college or university in which the student is enrolled. Awards
1559 made to nonresidents of the state shall not include any amount
1560 assessed by the college or university for out-of-state tuition.

1561 (4) Upon completion of the master's program and licensure
1562 requirements, a forgivable loan recipient who has not been
1563 previously licensed by the State Department of Education shall
1564 render service as licensed teacher of dyslexia therapy in a public
1565 school district in the state.

1566 (5) Repayment and conversion terms shall be the same as
1567 those outlined in Section 37-106-53.

1568 (6) The board shall prepare and submit a report to the
1569 Legislature by January 1, 2015, outlining in detail the number of



1570 participants who have received forgivable loans under the program,
1571 the record of service provided by those recipients as they
1572 transition out of the degree program into the public school
1573 districts of this state, and the projection for expanding the
1574 program to include more participants annually as determined by the
1575 need for such qualified professionals in the public school
1576 setting. Additionally, the report shall include a summary of
1577 allocations and expenditures for the administration of the program
1578 and the total amount of funds issued to recipients of forgivable
1579 loan from the inception of the program until such time as the
1580 report has been prepared and submitted to the Legislature.

1581 (7) The Mississippi Dyslexia Education Forgivable Loan
1582 Program shall be administered in the same manner as the Critical
1583 Needs Teacher Forgivable Loan Program established under Section
1584 37-106-55 and shall be incorporated into the Critical Needs
1585 Teacher Forgivable Loan Program for all purposes.

1586 (8) Funding for the establishment and continued operation of
1587 the Mississippi Dyslexia Education Forgivable Loan Program shall
1588 be administered by the board through a special fund established
1589 within the Critical Needs Teacher Forgivable Loan Program. The
1590 board may accept and receive monetary gifts and donations from any
1591 source, public or private, which such funds shall be deposited in
1592 the special fund for the benefit of the Mississippi Dyslexia
1593 Education Forgivable Loan Program with the Critical Needs Teacher
1594 Forgivable Loan Program.



1595 (9) No more than twenty (20) students per cohort shall be
1596 selected annually to be admitted into the program for receipt of
1597 forgivable loans beginning with the 2013-2014 academic year.
1598 However, forgivable loans awarded under the program shall be
1599 provided only to students who have been accepted into a Dyslexia
1600 Therapy Master's Degree Cohort Program approved by the State
1601 Department of Education that provides instructional training as
1602 required under Chapter 173, Title 37, Mississippi Code of 1972,
1603 for dyslexia therapy in preparation of those cohort students for
1604 AA licensure by the department.

1605 **SECTION 32.** The following shall be codified as Section
1606 37-106-73, Mississippi Code of 1972:

1607 37-106-73. **Speech-Language Pathologists Forgivable Loan**

1608 **Program.** (1) There is established a Speech-Language Pathologists
1609 Forgivable Loan Program. It is the intent of the Legislature that
1610 persons declaring an intention to work in an accredited public
1611 school (K-12), including a charter school, located in the State of
1612 Mississippi as a speech-language pathologist shall be eligible for
1613 a loan for the purpose of acquiring a master's level education in
1614 such profession. The board shall enter into contracts with
1615 applicants, providing that such loans may be discharged by working
1616 as a master's level speech-language pathologist in an accredited
1617 public school (K-12), including a charter school, located in the
1618 State of Mississippi.



1619 Repayment and conversion terms shall be the same as those
1620 outlined in Section 37-106-53.

1621 (2) The board shall establish rules and regulations as it
1622 deems necessary and proper to carry out the purposes and intent of
1623 this section.

1624 The provisions of this section shall be subject to specific
1625 appropriation therefor by the Legislature.

1626 **SECTION 33.** The following shall be codified as Section
1627 37-106-75, Mississippi Code of 1972:

1628 **[From and July 1, 2014, and until June 30, 2015, this section**
1629 **shall read as follows:]**

1630 37-106-75. (1) The Legislature hereby establishes the
1631 Higher Education Legislative Plan Grant Program.

1632 (2) For purposes of this section:

1633 (a) "Institution of higher education" shall mean any
1634 state institution of higher learning or public community or junior
1635 college, or any regionally accredited, state-approved, nonprofit
1636 two-year or four-year college or university located in the State
1637 of Mississippi approved by the board.

1638 (b) "Tuition" shall mean the semester or trimester or
1639 term charges and all required fees imposed by an institution of
1640 higher education as a condition of enrollment by all students.
1641 However, for a two-year nonpublic institution of higher education
1642 defined in paragraph (a), the tuition payments shall not exceed
1643 the average charges and fees required by all of the two-year



1644 public institutions of higher education defined in paragraph (a),
1645 and for a four-year nonpublic institution of higher education
1646 defined in paragraph (a), the tuition payments shall not exceed
1647 the average charges and fees required by all of the four-year
1648 public institutions of higher education defined in paragraph (a).

1649 (3) Subject to the availability of funds, the state may pay
1650 the tuition of students who enroll at any state institution of
1651 higher education to pursue an academic undergraduate degree who
1652 apply for the assistance under the program and who meet all of the
1653 following qualifications:

1654 (a) Resident of the State of Mississippi. Resident
1655 status for the purpose of receiving assistance under this chapter
1656 shall be determined in the same manner as resident status for
1657 tuition purposes in Sections 37-103-1 through 37-103-29, with the
1658 exception of Section 37-103-17;

1659 (b) Graduate from high school within the two (2) years
1660 preceding the application with a minimum cumulative grade point
1661 average of 2.5 calculated on a 4.0 scale;

1662 (c) Successfully complete, as certified by the high
1663 school counselor or other school official, seventeen and one-half
1664 (17-1/2) units of high school course work which includes the
1665 College Preparatory Curriculum (CPC) approved by the Board of
1666 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning and required for
1667 admission into a state university, plus one (1) unit of art which
1668 may include one (1) unit or two (2) one-half (1/2) units from the



1669 approved Mississippi Department of Education Arts-Visual and
1670 Performing series, and one (1) additional advanced elective unit,
1671 which may include Foreign Language II;

1672 (d) Have a composite score on the American College Test
1673 of at least twenty (20) on the 1989 version or an equivalent
1674 concordant value on an enhanced version of such test;

1675 (e) Have no criminal record, except for misdemeanor
1676 traffic violations; and

1677 (f) Be in financial need.

1678 (4) Subject to the availability of funds, the state may pay
1679 the tuition of students who enroll at any state institution of
1680 higher education to pursue an academic undergraduate degree or
1681 associate degree who apply for assistance under the program and
1682 who meet the qualifications in paragraphs (a), (e) and (f) of
1683 subsection (3) but who fail to meet one (1) of the particular
1684 requirements established by paragraph (b), (c) or (d) of
1685 subsection (3) by an amount of ten percent (10%) or less.

1686 (5) To maintain continued state payment of tuition, once
1687 enrolled in an institution of higher education, a student shall
1688 meet all of the following requirements:

1689 (a) Make steady academic progress toward a degree,
1690 earning not less than the minimum number of hours of credit
1691 required for full-time standing in each academic period requiring
1692 such enrollment;



1693 (b) Maintain continuous enrollment for not less than
1694 two (2) semesters or three (3) quarters in each successive
1695 academic year, unless granted an exception for cause by the board;

1696 (c) Have a cumulative grade point average of at least
1697 2.5 calculated on a 4.0 scale at the end of the first academic
1698 year and thereafter maintain such a cumulative grade point average
1699 as evaluated at the end of each academic year;

1700 (d) Have no criminal record, except for misdemeanor
1701 traffic violations; and

1702 (e) Be in financial need.

1703 (6) The provisions of this section shall be administered by
1704 the board. The board may promulgate rules for all matters
1705 necessary for the implementation of this section. By rule, the
1706 board shall provide for:

1707 (a) A mechanism for informing all students of the
1708 availability of the assistance provided under this section early
1709 enough in their schooling that a salutary motivational effect is
1710 possible;

1711 (b) Applications, forms, financial audit procedures,
1712 eligibility and other program audit procedures and other matters
1713 related to efficient operation;

1714 (c) A procedure for waiver through the 1996-1997
1715 academic year of the program eligibility requirement for
1716 successful completion of a specified core curriculum upon proper
1717 documentation by the applicant that failure to comply with the



1718 requirement is due solely to the fact that the required course or
1719 courses were not available to the applicant at the school
1720 attended.

1721 (7) An applicant shall be found to be in financial need if:

1722 (a) The family has one (1) child under the age of
1723 twenty-one (21), and the annual adjusted gross income of the
1724 family is less than Thirty-six Thousand Five Hundred Dollars
1725 (\$36,500.00); or

1726 (b) The family has an annual adjusted gross income of
1727 less than Thirty-six Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$36,500.00)
1728 plus Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for each additional child
1729 under the age of twenty-one (21).

1730 The annual adjusted gross income of the family shall be
1731 verified by completion of the Free Application for Federal Student
1732 Aid (FAFSA) and the completion of the verification process if the
1733 applicant is selected for it.

1734 As used in this subsection, the term "family" for an
1735 unemancipated applicant means the applicant, the applicant's
1736 parents and other children under age twenty-one (21) of the
1737 applicant's parents. The term "family" for an emancipated
1738 applicant means the applicant, an applicant's spouse, and any
1739 children under age twenty-one (21) of the applicant and spouse.

1740 (8) No student shall receive a grant under this section in
1741 an amount greater than the tuition charged by the school. The



1742 student must apply for a federal grant prior to receiving state
1743 funds.

1744 **[From and after July 1, 2015, and until June 30, 2016, this**
1745 **section shall read as follows:]**

1746 37-106-75. (1) The Legislature hereby establishes the
1747 Higher Education Legislative Plan Grant Program.

1748 (2) For purposes of this section:

1749 (a) "Institution of higher education" shall mean any
1750 state institution of higher learning or public community or junior
1751 college, or any regionally accredited, state-approved, nonprofit
1752 two-year or four-year college or university located in the State
1753 of Mississippi approved by the board.

1754 (b) "Tuition" shall mean the semester or trimester or
1755 term charges and all required fees imposed by an institution of
1756 higher education as a condition of enrollment by all students.
1757 However, for a two-year nonpublic institution of higher education
1758 defined in paragraph (a), the tuition payments shall not exceed
1759 the average charges and fees required by all of the two-year
1760 public institutions of higher education defined in paragraph (a),
1761 and for a four-year nonpublic institution of higher education
1762 defined in paragraph (a), the tuition payments shall not exceed
1763 the average charges and fees required by all of the four-year
1764 public institutions of higher education defined in paragraph (a).

1765 (3) Subject to the availability of funds, the state may pay
1766 the tuition of students who enroll at any state institution of



1767 higher education to pursue an academic undergraduate degree who
1768 apply for the assistance under the program and who meet all of the
1769 following qualifications:

1770 (a) Resident of the State of Mississippi. Resident
1771 status for the purpose of receiving assistance under this chapter
1772 shall be determined in the same manner as resident status for
1773 tuition purposes in Sections 37-103-1 through 37-103-29, with the
1774 exception of Section 37-103-17;

1775 (b) Graduate from high school within the two (2) years
1776 preceding the application with a minimum cumulative grade point
1777 average of 2.5 calculated on a 4.0 scale;

1778 (c) Successfully complete, as certified by the high
1779 school counselor or other school official, seventeen and one-half
1780 (17-1/2) units of high school course work which includes the
1781 College Preparatory Curriculum (CPC) approved by the Board of
1782 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning and required for
1783 admission into a state university, plus one (1) unit of art which
1784 may include one (1) unit or two (2) one-half (1/2) units from the
1785 approved Mississippi Department of Education Arts-Visual and
1786 Performing series, and one (1) additional advanced elective unit,
1787 which may include Foreign Language II;

1788 (d) Have a composite score on the American College Test
1789 of at least twenty (20) on the 1989 version or an equivalent
1790 concordant value on an enhanced version of such test;



1791 (e) Have no criminal record, except for misdemeanor
1792 traffic violations; and

1793 (f) Be in financial need.

1794 (4) Subject to the availability of funds, the state may pay
1795 the tuition of students who enroll at any state institution of
1796 higher education to pursue an academic undergraduate degree or
1797 associate degree who apply for assistance under the program and
1798 who meet the qualifications in paragraphs (a), (e) and (f) of
1799 subsection (3) but who fail to meet one (1) of the particular
1800 requirements established by paragraph (b), (c) or (d) of
1801 subsection (3) by an amount of ten percent (10%) or less.

1802 (5) To maintain continued state payment of tuition, once
1803 enrolled in an institution of higher education, a student shall
1804 meet all of the following requirements:

1805 (a) Make steady academic progress toward a degree,
1806 earning not less than the minimum number of hours of credit
1807 required for full-time standing in each academic period requiring
1808 such enrollment;

1809 (b) Maintain continuous enrollment for not less than
1810 two (2) semesters or three (3) quarters in each successive
1811 academic year, unless granted an exception for cause by the board;

1812 (c) Have a cumulative grade point average of at least
1813 2.5 calculated on a 4.0 scale at the end of the first academic
1814 year and thereafter maintain such a cumulative grade point average
1815 as evaluated at the end of each academic year;



1816 (d) Have no criminal record, except for misdemeanor
1817 traffic violations; and

1818 (e) Be in financial need.

1819 (6) The provisions of this section shall be administered by
1820 the board. The board may promulgate rules for all matters
1821 necessary for the implementation of this section. By rule, the
1822 board shall provide for:

1823 (a) A mechanism for informing all students of the
1824 availability of the assistance provided under this section early
1825 enough in their schooling that a salutary motivational effect is
1826 possible;

1827 (b) Applications, forms, financial audit procedures,
1828 eligibility and other program audit procedures and other matters
1829 related to efficient operation;

1830 (c) A procedure for waiver through the 1996-1997
1831 academic year of the program eligibility requirement for
1832 successful completion of a specified core curriculum upon proper
1833 documentation by the applicant that failure to comply with the
1834 requirement is due solely to the fact that the required course or
1835 courses were not available to the applicant at the school
1836 attended.

1837 (7) An applicant shall be found to be in financial need if:

1838 (a) The family has one (1) child under the age of
1839 twenty-one (21), and the annual adjusted gross income of the



1840 family is less than Thirty-nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars
1841 (\$39,500.00); or

1842 (b) The family has an annual adjusted gross income of
1843 less than Thirty-nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$39,500.00)
1844 plus Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for each additional child
1845 under the age of twenty-one (21).

1846 The annual adjusted gross income of the family shall be
1847 verified by completion of the Free Application for Federal Student
1848 Aid (FAFSA) and the completion of the verification process if the
1849 applicant is selected for it.

1850 As used in this subsection, the term "family" for an
1851 unemancipated applicant means the applicant, the applicant's
1852 parents and other children under age twenty-one (21) of the
1853 applicant's parents. The term "family" for an emancipated
1854 applicant means the applicant, an applicant's spouse, and any
1855 children under age twenty-one (21) of the applicant and spouse.

1856 (8) No student shall receive a grant under this section in
1857 an amount greater than the tuition charged by the school. The
1858 student must apply for a federal grant prior to receiving state
1859 funds.

1860 **[From and after July 1, 2016, this section shall read as**
1861 **follows:]**

1862 37-106-75. (1) The Legislature hereby establishes the
1863 Higher Education Legislative Plan Grant Program.

1864 (2) For purposes of this section:



1865 (a) "Institution of higher education" shall mean any
1866 state institution of higher learning or public community or junior
1867 college, or any regionally accredited, state-approved, nonprofit
1868 two-year or four-year college or university located in the State
1869 of Mississippi approved by the board.

1870 (b) "Tuition" shall mean the semester or trimester or
1871 term charges and all required fees imposed by an institution of
1872 higher education as a condition of enrollment by all students.
1873 However, for a two-year nonpublic institution of higher education
1874 defined in paragraph (a), the tuition payments shall not exceed
1875 the average charges and fees required by all of the two-year
1876 public institutions of higher education defined in paragraph (a),
1877 and for a four-year nonpublic institution of higher education
1878 defined in paragraph (a), the tuition payments shall not exceed
1879 the average charges and fees required by all of the four-year
1880 public institutions of higher education defined in paragraph (a).

1881 (3) Subject to the availability of funds, the state may pay
1882 the tuition of students who enroll at any state institution of
1883 higher education to pursue an academic undergraduate degree who
1884 apply for the assistance under the program and who meet all of the
1885 following qualifications:

1886 (a) Resident of the State of Mississippi. Resident
1887 status for the purpose of receiving assistance under this chapter
1888 shall be determined in the same manner as resident status for



1889 tuition purposes in Sections 37-103-1 through 37-103-29, with the
1890 exception of Section 37-103-17;

1891 (b) Graduate from high school within the two (2) years
1892 preceding the application with a minimum cumulative grade point
1893 average of 2.5 calculated on a 4.0 scale;

1894 (c) Successfully complete, as certified by the high
1895 school counselor or other school official, seventeen and one-half
1896 (17-1/2) units of high school course work which includes the
1897 College Preparatory Curriculum (CPC) approved by the Board of
1898 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning and required for
1899 admission into a state university, plus one (1) unit of art which
1900 may include one (1) unit or two (2) one-half (1/2) units from the
1901 approved Mississippi Department of Education Arts-Visual and
1902 Performing series, and one (1) additional advanced elective unit,
1903 which may include Foreign Language II;

1904 (d) Have a composite score on the American College Test
1905 of at least twenty (20) on the 1989 version or an equivalent
1906 concordant value on an enhanced version of such test;

1907 (e) Have no criminal record, except for misdemeanor
1908 traffic violations; and

1909 (f) Be in financial need.

1910 (4) Subject to the availability of funds, the state may pay
1911 the tuition of students who enroll at any state institution of
1912 higher education to pursue an academic undergraduate degree or
1913 associate degree who apply for assistance under the program and



1914 who meet the qualifications in paragraphs (a), (e) and (f) of
1915 subsection (3) but who fail to meet one (1) of the particular
1916 requirements established by paragraph (b), (c) or (d) of
1917 subsection (3) by an amount of ten percent (10%) or less.

1918 (5) To maintain continued state payment of tuition, once
1919 enrolled in an institution of higher education, a student shall
1920 meet all of the following requirements:

1921 (a) Make steady academic progress toward a degree,
1922 earning not less than the minimum number of hours of credit
1923 required for full-time standing in each academic period requiring
1924 such enrollment;

1925 (b) Maintain continuous enrollment for not less than
1926 two (2) semesters or three (3) quarters in each successive
1927 academic year, unless granted an exception for cause by the board;

1928 (c) Have a cumulative grade point average of at least
1929 2.5 calculated on a 4.0 scale at the end of the first academic
1930 year and thereafter maintain such a cumulative grade point average
1931 as evaluated at the end of each academic year;

1932 (d) Have no criminal record, except for misdemeanor
1933 traffic violations; and

1934 (e) Be in financial need.

1935 (6) The provisions of this section shall be administered by
1936 the board. The board may promulgate rules for all matters
1937 necessary for the implementation of this section. By rule, the
1938 board shall provide for:



1939 (a) A mechanism for informing all students of the
1940 availability of the assistance provided under this section early
1941 enough in their schooling that a salutary motivational effect is
1942 possible;

1943 (b) Applications, forms, financial audit procedures,
1944 eligibility and other program audit procedures and other matters
1945 related to efficient operation;

1946 (c) A procedure for waiver through the 1996-1997
1947 academic year of the program eligibility requirement for
1948 successful completion of a specified core curriculum upon proper
1949 documentation by the applicant that failure to comply with the
1950 requirement is due solely to the fact that the required course or
1951 courses were not available to the applicant at the school
1952 attended.

1953 (7) An applicant shall be found to be in financial need if:

1954 (a) The family has one (1) child under the age of
1955 twenty-one (21), and the annual adjusted gross income of the
1956 family is less than Forty-two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars
1957 (\$42,500.00); or

1958 (b) The family has an annual adjusted gross income of
1959 less than Forty-two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$42,500.00)
1960 plus Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for each additional child
1961 under the age of twenty-one (21).

1962 The annual adjusted gross income of the family shall be
1963 verified by completion of the Free Application for Federal Student



1964 Aid (FAFSA) and the completion of the verification process if the
1965 applicant is selected for it.

1966 As used in this subsection, the term "family" for an
1967 unemancipated applicant means the applicant, the applicant's
1968 parents and other children under age twenty-one (21) of the
1969 applicant's parents. The term "family" for an emancipated
1970 applicant means the applicant, an applicant's spouse, and any
1971 children under age twenty-one (21) of the applicant and spouse.

1972 (8) No student shall receive a grant under this section in
1973 an amount greater than the tuition charged by the school. The
1974 student must apply for a federal grant prior to receiving state
1975 funds.

1976 **SECTION 34.** Sections 37-107-1, 37-107-3, 37-107-5, 37-107-7
1977 and 37-107-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, which provided
1978 scholarships for children of deceased for disabled law enforcement
1979 officers or firemen, are repealed.

1980 **SECTION 35.** Sections 37-108-1, 37-108-3 and 37-108-5,
1981 Mississippi Code of 1972, which provided scholarships for children
1982 of certain Armed Forces members, are repealed.

1983 **SECTION 36.** Sections 37-110-1, 37-110-3, 37-110-5, 37-110-9
1984 and 37-110-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, which provided for the
1985 Mississippi Public Management Graduate Intern Program, are
1986 repealed.

1987 **SECTION 37.** Sections 37-143-1, 37-143-3, 37-143-5, 37-143-6,
1988 37-143-7, 37-143-9, 37-143-11, 37-143-12, 37-143-13, 37-143-14,



1989 37-143-15, 37-143-17, 37-143-19 and 37-143-21, Mississippi Code of
1990 1972, which provided for the Omnibus Loan or Scholarship Act of
1991 1991, are repealed.

1992 **SECTION 38.** Sections 37-157-1 and 37-157-3, Mississippi Code
1993 of 1972, which provided for the student tuition assistance
1994 program, are repealed.

1995 **SECTION 39.** Section 37-159-3, Mississippi Code of 1972,
1996 which provides for the Critical Needs Teacher Scholarship Program,
1997 is repealed.

1998 **SECTION 40.** Sections 37-159-51 and 37-159-53, Mississippi
1999 Code of 1972, which provided for the Mississippi Dyslexia
2000 Education Scholarship Program, are repealed.

2001 **SECTION 41.** Section 37-101-221, Mississippi Code of 1972,
2002 which provides for the instruction of Mississippi students in
2003 schools outside the state, is repealed.

2004 **SECTION 42.** Section 37-144-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
2005 amended as follows:

2006 37-144-21. This chapter may not be construed as granting the
2007 Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program or its governing
2008 commission any governing or administrative authority over any
2009 program administered by any college, university, medical school or
2010 residency program in this state or any other program established
2011 by state law * * *.

2012 **SECTION 43.** Section 97-15-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
2013 amended as follows:



2014 97-15-29. (1) Anyone who shall put, throw, dump or leave on
2015 the roads and highways of this state, or within the limits of the
2016 rights-of-way of such roads and highways, or upon any private
2017 property, any cigarette or cigar stubs, or any other thing or
2018 substance likely to ignite the grass or underbrush on a road or
2019 highway, in addition to being civilly liable for all damages
2020 caused by such act shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a
2021 misdemeanor and punished as provided by subsection (3) of this
2022 section.

2023 (2) The Department of Transportation is authorized to erect
2024 warning signs along the roads and highways of this state advising
2025 the public of the existence of this section and of the penalty for
2026 the violation thereof and is further authorized to install
2027 receptacles at reasonable intervals along the roads and highways
2028 of this state to be used as containers for trash and rubbish and
2029 for the convenience of the public using such roads and highways.

2030 (3) Any person found guilty of the violation of this section
2031 shall, upon conviction, be fined not less than Fifty Dollars
2032 (\$50.00) nor more than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00). The
2033 proceeds of such fines shall be expended by the collecting
2034 jurisdiction solely for the purpose of funding local litter
2035 prevention programs or projects or local or school litter
2036 education programs as recommended by the statewide litter
2037 prevention program of Keep Mississippi Beautiful, Inc.



2038 (4) As a part of the fine imposed by subsection (3) above, a
2039 person convicted for an offense upon which fines are imposed by
2040 this section may be required to perform the following, and a
2041 person convicted for a second or subsequent offense upon which
2042 fines are imposed by this section shall be required to:

2043 (a) Remove or render harmless, in accordance with
2044 written direction, as appropriate, from the Department of
2045 Environmental Quality or local law enforcement authorities, the
2046 unlawfully discarded solid waste;

2047 (b) Repair or restore property damaged by, or pay
2048 damages for any damage arising out of the unlawfully discarded
2049 solid waste;

2050 (c) Perform community public service relating to the
2051 removal of any unlawfully discarded solid waste or to the
2052 restoration of any area polluted by unlawfully discarded solid
2053 waste; and

2054 (d) Pay all reasonable investigative and prosecutorial
2055 expenses and costs to the investigative and/or prosecutorial
2056 agency or agencies.

2057 (5) Upon a second or subsequent conviction of an offense
2058 upon which fines are imposed by this section, the minimum and
2059 maximum fines shall be doubled.

2060 (6) When any litter is thrown or discarded from a motor
2061 vehicle, the operator of the motor vehicle shall be deemed in
2062 violation of this section.



2063 (7) There shall be imposed and collected an assessment of
2064 Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) on each violation of this section. The
2065 assessment shall be deposited into the Law Enforcement Officers
2066 Monument Fund created in Section 39-5-71. After the monument is
2067 constructed, the assessment shall not be deposited into the fund.
2068 The assessment shall then be deposited with the * * *
2069 Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board to be used for
2070 the scholarship program for children of deceased or disabled law
2071 enforcement officers and firemen as provided by * * * Section
2072 37-106-39.

2073 (8) It shall be the duty of all law enforcement officers to
2074 enforce the provisions of this section.

2075 (9) This section shall not prohibit the storage of ties and
2076 machinery by a railroad on its right-of-way where the highway
2077 right-of-way extends to within a few feet of the railroad roadbed.

2078 **SECTION 44.** The following shall be codified as Section
2079 37-106-77, Mississippi Code of 1972:

2080 37-106-77. (1) There is established the Teaching Fellows
2081 Program to attract qualified teachers by awarding forgivable loans
2082 to persons declaring an intention to serve in the teaching field
2083 who actually render service in the State of Mississippi while
2084 possessing an appropriate teaching license.

2085 (2) Beginning with the 2015-2016 academic year, the Teaching
2086 Fellows Program shall be used to provide a four-year forgivable
2087 loan of Six Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$6,500.00) per year to



2088 Mississippi high school seniors interested in preparing to teach
2089 in the public schools of the state. The awarding of forgivable
2090 loans under the Teaching Fellows Program shall be administered by
2091 the Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board. The
2092 Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board shall adopt
2093 stringent standards, including a minimum grade point average and
2094 scholastic aptitude test scores, for awarding these forgivable
2095 loans to ensure that only the highest aptitude high school seniors
2096 receive them.

2097 (3) The State Board of Education shall administer the
2098 program in cooperation with the schools of education of the
2099 universities and colleges selected by the board. Teaching Fellows
2100 should be exposed to a range of extracurricular activities while
2101 in college. These activities should be geared to instilling a
2102 strong motivation not only to remain in teaching but to provide
2103 leadership for tomorrow's schools.

2104 (4) The State Board of Education shall form regional review
2105 committees to assist it in identifying the highest aptitude high
2106 school seniors for the program. The State Board of Education and
2107 the review committees shall make an effort to identify and
2108 encourage minority students and students who may not otherwise
2109 consider a career in teaching to enter the program.

2110 (5) Repayment and conversion terms shall be the same as
2111 those outlined in Section 37-106-53 except that the Postsecondary



2112 Education Financial Assistance Board shall forgive the loan in the
2113 following circumstances:

2114 (a) Within seven (7) years after graduation, the
2115 recipient teaches for four (4) years at a Mississippi public
2116 school or at a school operated by the United States government in
2117 Mississippi;

2118 (b) Within seven (7) years after graduation, the
2119 recipient teaches for three (3) consecutive years, unless the
2120 recipient takes an approved leave of absence, at a Mississippi
2121 public school in a school district that at the time the recipient
2122 accepts reemployment with the district which is under
2123 conservatorship or is a low-performing school system identified in
2124 accordance with Section 37-17-6 or is on probation status as
2125 defined by the State Board of Education; or

2126 (c) The board finds that it is impossible for the
2127 recipient to teach for four (4) years, within seven (7) years
2128 after graduation, at a Mississippi public school or at a school
2129 operated by the United States government in Mississippi, because
2130 of the death or permanent disability of the recipient.

2131 (6) The State Board of Education and the Postsecondary
2132 Education Financial Assistance Board shall jointly promulgate
2133 rules and regulations for the proper administration of the
2134 Teaching Fellows Program established under this section. The
2135 State Board of Education shall be the administering agency of the
2136 program.



2137 **SECTION 45.** The following shall be codified as Section
2138 37-106-79, Mississippi Code of 1972:

2139 37-106-79. (1) There is created the Teacher Education
2140 Alternate Route Certification Scholars Program to be administered
2141 by the Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board.
2142 Beginning with the 2015-2016 academic year, the program shall
2143 provide an annual forgivable loan not to exceed Five Thousand
2144 Dollars (\$5,000.00) for one (1) of the following alternate route
2145 programs:

2146 (a) Mississippi Alternate Path to Quality Teachers
2147 Training Institute;

2148 (b) Teach Mississippi Institute;

2149 (c) Career Tech Education (CTE); or

2150 (d) Masters of Arts in Teaching (MAT).

2151 (2) Qualifying alternate route certification teacher
2152 education scholars must:

2153 (a) Hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally or
2154 nationally accredited institution of higher learning;

2155 (b) Have a minimum GPA of 3.0 based on a 4.0 scale on
2156 the last sixty (60) credit hours of baccalaureate work, as
2157 reported by the graduating institution; and

2158 (c) Meet the Mississippi minimum score requirements for
2159 national exams as required for educator certification as
2160 determined by the State Department of Education.



2161 (3) A teacher education alternate route certified scholar
2162 who completes the program shall render one (1) year's service as a
2163 teacher in a Mississippi public school for each year that the
2164 scholar received an award under the program. Repayment and
2165 conversion terms shall be the same as outlined in Section
2166 37-106-53.

2167 (4) The Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board
2168 shall promulgate such rules as are necessary to administer the
2169 Teacher Education Alternate Route Certification Scholars Program
2170 and establish necessary eligibility criteria not specifically set
2171 forth in this section.

2172 (5) Awards granted under the Teacher Education Alternate
2173 Route Certification Scholars Program shall be made available to
2174 nontraditional licensed teachers showing a documented need for
2175 student loan repayment and employed in those school districts
2176 designated by the State Board of Education as a geographical area
2177 of the state or in a subject area of the curriculum in which there
2178 is a critical shortage of teachers. Repayment and conversion
2179 terms shall be the same as outlined in Section 37-106-53 except
2180 that the maximum annual amount of this repayment should not exceed
2181 Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00) and the maximum time period for
2182 repayment shall be no more than four (4) years.

2183 (6) The provision of this act shall be subject to
2184 appropriation by the Legislature.



2185 **SECTION 46.** Section 37-159-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
2186 amended as follows:

2187 37-159-1. This act [Laws of 1998, * * * Chapter 544] shall
2188 be known and may be cited as the "Mississippi Critical Teacher
2189 Shortage Act of 1998."

2190 This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2020.

2191 **SECTION 47.** Section 37-159-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
2192 amended as follows:

2193 37-159-5. The State Board of Education shall prescribe rules
2194 and regulations which, subject to available appropriations, allow
2195 for reimbursement to the state licensed teachers, from both in
2196 state and out of state, who enter into a contract for employment
2197 in a school district situated within a geographical area of the
2198 state where there exists a critical shortage of teachers, as
2199 designated by the State Board of Education, for the expense of
2200 moving when the employment necessitates the relocation of the
2201 teacher to a different geographical area than that in which the
2202 teacher resides before entering into such contract. In order to
2203 be eligible for the reimbursement, the teacher must apply to the
2204 local district and the district must obtain the prior approval
2205 from the department for reimbursement before the relocation
2206 occurs. If the reimbursement is approved, the department shall
2207 provide funds to the school district to reimburse the teacher an
2208 amount not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the
2209 documented actual expenses incurred in the course of relocating,



2210 including the expense of any professional moving company or
2211 persons employed to assist with the move, rented moving vehicles
2212 or equipment, mileage in the amount authorized for state employees
2213 under Section 25-3-41 if the teacher used his personal vehicle or
2214 vehicles for the move, meals and such other expenses associated
2215 with the relocation in accordance with the department's
2216 established rules and regulations. No teacher may be reimbursed
2217 for moving expenses under this section on more than one (1)
2218 occasion.

2219 Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the
2220 actual residence to which the teacher relocates to be within the
2221 boundaries of the school district which has executed a contract
2222 for employment with the teacher or within the boundaries of the
2223 area designated by the State Board of Education as the critical
2224 teacher shortage area in order for the teacher to be eligible for
2225 reimbursement for his moving expenses. However, teachers must
2226 relocate within the boundaries of the State of Mississippi.

2227 This section shall stand repealed July 1, 2020.

2228 **SECTION 48.** Section 37-159-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
2229 amended as follows:

2230 37-159-7. The school board of any school district situated
2231 within a geographical area of the state where there exists a
2232 critical shortage of teachers, as designated by the State Board of
2233 Education, in its discretion, may reimburse persons who interview
2234 for employment as a licensed teacher with the district for the



2235 mileage and other actual expenses incurred in the course of travel
2236 to and from the interview by such persons at the rate authorized
2237 for county and municipal employees under Section 25-3-41. Any
2238 reimbursement by a school board under this section shall be paid
2239 from nonminimum education program funds.

2240 This section shall stand repealed July 1, 2020.

2241 **SECTION 49.** Section 37-159-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
2242 amended as follows:

2243 37-159-9. (1) There is established the University Assisted
2244 Teacher Recruitment and Retention Grant Program within the State
2245 Department of Education. The purposes of the program shall be to
2246 attract additional qualified teachers to those geographical areas
2247 of the state where there exists a critical shortage of teachers
2248 and to retain the qualified teachers already serving as licensed
2249 teachers in geographical critical teacher shortage areas by making
2250 available scholarships to persons working towards a Master of
2251 Education degree or an Educational Specialist degree at an
2252 institution of higher learning whose teacher education program is
2253 approved by the State Board of Education.

2254 (2) Any institution of higher learning in the State of
2255 Mississippi which offers a Master of Education degree or an
2256 Educational Specialist degree may apply to the department for
2257 participation in the program. As part of the program,
2258 participating institutions shall collaborate with the Mississippi
2259 Teacher Center to identify, recruit and place teacher education



2260 graduates, from both within the state and out of state, in school
2261 districts situated within those areas of the state where there
2262 exists a critical shortage of teachers, as designated by the State
2263 Board of Education.

2264 (3) The State Department of Education shall provide funds to
2265 participating institutions of higher learning for the purpose of
2266 awarding scholarships to qualified persons pursuing a Master of
2267 Education degree or an Educational Specialist degree at such
2268 institutions while rendering service to the state as a licensed
2269 teacher in a school district in a geographical area of the state
2270 where there exists a critical shortage of teachers, as approved by
2271 the State Board of Education. The financial scholarship shall be
2272 applied to the total cost for tuition, books, materials and fees
2273 at the institution in which the student is enrolled, not to exceed
2274 an amount equal to the highest total cost of tuition, books,
2275 materials and fees assessed by a state institution of higher
2276 learning during that school year. Teachers who relocate within
2277 Mississippi from out of state in order to participate in the
2278 program shall be classified as residents of the state for tuition
2279 purposes.

2280 (4) Students awarded financial scholarships under the
2281 University Assisted Teacher Recruitment and Retention Grant
2282 Program may receive such awards for a maximum of four (4) school
2283 years; however, the maximum number of awards which may be made
2284 shall not exceed the length of time required to complete the



2285 number of academic hours necessary to obtain a Master of Education
2286 degree or an Educational Specialist degree. Financial
2287 scholarships under the program shall not be based upon an
2288 applicant's eligibility for financial aid.

2289 (5) Persons relocating to a geographical area of the state
2290 where there exists a critical shortage of teachers, as approved by
2291 the State Board of Education, to participate in the University
2292 Assisted Teacher Recruitment and Retention Grant Program shall be
2293 eligible for reimbursement for their moving expenses to the
2294 critical teacher shortage area from the State Board of Education.
2295 The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules and
2296 regulations necessary for the administration of the relocation
2297 expense reimbursement component of the University Assisted Teacher
2298 Recruitment and Retention Grant Program.

2299 (6) Subject to the availability of funds, the State Board of
2300 Education may provide for professional development and support
2301 services as may be necessary for the retention of teachers
2302 participating in the program in those geographical areas of the
2303 state where there exists a critical shortage of teachers.

2304 (7) Any person participating in the program who fails to
2305 complete a program of study that will enable that person to obtain
2306 a Master of Education degree or Educational Specialist degree
2307 shall become liable immediately to the State Board of Education
2308 for the sum of all awards made to that person under the program,



2309 plus interest accruing at the current Stafford Loan rate at the
2310 time the person abrogates his participation in the program.

2311 (8) As a condition for participation in the program, a
2312 teacher shall agree to employment as a licensed teacher in a
2313 school district located in a geographical area of the state where
2314 there exists a critical shortage of teachers, as designated by the
2315 State Board of Education, for a period of not less than three (3)
2316 years, which shall include those years of service rendered while
2317 obtaining the Master of Education degree or Educational Specialist
2318 degree. However, for any person who obtained a baccalaureate
2319 degree in education with a financial scholarship under the
2320 Critical Needs Teacher Scholarship Program and who entered the
2321 University Assisted Teacher Recruitment and Retention Grant
2322 Program before rendering service as a teacher, the period of
2323 employment for the purposes of this subsection shall be two (2)
2324 years, in addition to the employment commitment required under the
2325 Critical Needs Teacher Scholarship Program. Service rendered by a
2326 participant as a licensed teacher in a school district in a
2327 geographical critical teacher shortage area before that teacher
2328 becomes a participant in the program may not be considered to
2329 fulfill the employment commitment required under this subsection.
2330 Any person failing to comply with this employment commitment in
2331 any required school year shall immediately be in breach of
2332 contract and become liable immediately to the State Department of
2333 Education for the sum of all scholarships awarded and relocation



2334 expenses granted to that person, less one-third (1/3) of the
2335 amount of that sum for each year that service was rendered, or for
2336 those persons whose required period of employment is two (2)
2337 years, less one-half (1/2) of the amount of that sum for each year
2338 that service was rendered, plus interest accruing at the current
2339 Stafford Loan rate at the time the breach occurs, except in the
2340 case of a deferral for cause by the State Board of Education when
2341 there is no employment position immediately available upon the
2342 teacher's obtaining of the Master of Education degree or
2343 Educational Specialist degree. After the period of such deferral,
2344 the person shall begin or resume the required teaching duties or
2345 shall become liable to the board under this subsection. If a
2346 claim for repayment under this subsection is placed in the hands
2347 of an attorney for collection after default, then the obligor
2348 shall be liable for an additional amount equal to a reasonable
2349 attorney's fee.

2350 (9) All funds received by the State Department of Education
2351 from the repayment of scholarship awards and relocation expenses
2352 by program participants shall be deposited in the Mississippi
2353 Critical Teacher Shortage Fund.

2354 (10) The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules and
2355 regulations necessary for the proper administration of the
2356 University Assisted Teacher Recruitment and Retention Grant
2357 Program.

2358 This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2020.



2359 **SECTION 50.** Section 37-159-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
2360 amended as follows:

2361 37-159-11. (1) There is established the Mississippi
2362 Employer-Assisted Housing Teacher Program, which shall be a
2363 special home loan program for eligible licensed teachers who
2364 render service to the state in a geographical area of the state
2365 where there exists a critical shortage of teachers, as designated
2366 by the State Board of Education. The home loan program shall be
2367 administered by the State Department of Education in conjunction
2368 with the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae). The
2369 department may contract with one or more public or private
2370 entities to provide assistance in implementing and administering
2371 the program. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and
2372 regulations regarding the implementation and administration of the
2373 program.

2374 (2) Participation in the loan program shall be available to
2375 any licensed teacher who renders service in a geographical area of
2376 the state where there exists a critical shortage of teachers, as
2377 designated by the State Board of Education. Any person who
2378 receives a loan under the program shall be required to purchase a
2379 house and reside in a county in which the school district for
2380 which the teacher is rendering service, or any portion of the
2381 school district, is located. The maximum amount of a loan that
2382 may be made under the program to any person shall be Six Thousand
2383 Dollars (\$6,000.00).



2384 (3) Any loan made under the program to a person who actually
2385 renders service as a teacher in a geographical area of the state
2386 where there exists a critical shortage of teachers, as designated
2387 by the State Board of Education, shall be converted to an
2388 interest-free grant on the basis of one (1) year's service for
2389 one-third (1/3) of the amount of the loan. Any person who does
2390 not render three (3) years' service as a teacher in a geographical
2391 area of the state where there exists a critical shortage of
2392 teachers, as designated by the State Board of Education, shall be
2393 liable to the State Department of Education for one-third (1/3) of
2394 the amount of the loan for each year that he does not render such
2395 service, plus interest accruing at the current Stafford Loan rate
2396 at the time the person discontinues his service. If a claim for
2397 repayment under this subsection is placed in the hands of an
2398 attorney for collection, the obligor shall be liable for an
2399 additional amount equal to a reasonable attorney's fee.

2400 (4) All funds received by the State Department of Education
2401 as repayment of loans by program participants shall be deposited
2402 in the Mississippi Critical Teacher Shortage Fund.

2403 This section shall stand repealed July 1, 2020.

2404 **SECTION 51.** Section 37-159-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
2405 amended as follows:

2406 37-159-13. (1) There is established a pilot program to
2407 provide for the construction of rental housing units for teachers
2408 in the West Tallahatchie School District, which pilot program



2409 shall be administered by the State Department of Education. The
2410 department may contract with one or more public or private
2411 entities to provide assistance in implementing and administering
2412 the program. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and
2413 regulations regarding the implementation and administration of the
2414 program.

2415 (2) The West Tallahatchie School District shall receive
2416 proposals from developers for the construction of the rental
2417 housing units, and submit its recommendation to the State
2418 Department of Education about which developer should construct the
2419 units. The department shall make the final determination about
2420 the developer that will construct the units.

2421 (3) After selection of the developer, the department shall
2422 loan the developer not more than Two Hundred Thousand Dollars
2423 (\$200,000.00) for construction of the units. The interest rate on
2424 the loan shall be equal to one percent (1%) below the discount
2425 rate at the Federal Reserve Bank in the Federal Reserve district
2426 in which the school district is located, and the loan shall be
2427 repaid in not more than fifteen (15) years, as determined by the
2428 department. All funds received by the department as repayment of
2429 the principal and interest of the loan shall be deposited in the
2430 Mississippi Critical Teacher Shortage Fund. If a claim against
2431 the developer for repayment is placed in the hands of an attorney
2432 for collection, the obligor shall be liable for an additional
2433 amount equal to a reasonable attorney's fee.



2434 (4) The developer shall operate the rental housing units.
2435 For a period of ten (10) years or until such time as the loan to
2436 the developer is repaid, whichever is longer, the priority for
2437 residence in the units shall be given first to teachers employed
2438 by the school district, then to other licensed school district
2439 employees, and then to any other school district employees.

2440 This section shall stand repealed July 1, 2020.

2441 **SECTION 52.** Section 37-159-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
2442 amended as follows:

2443 37-159-17. There is established in the State Treasury a
2444 special fund to be designated the "Mississippi Critical Teacher
2445 Shortage Fund," into which shall be deposited those funds
2446 appropriated by the Legislature, and any other funds that may be
2447 made available, for the purpose of implementing the programs
2448 established under Sections 37-159-5, 37-9-77, 37-3-91 and 37-159-9
2449 through 37-159-13. Money in the fund at the end of a fiscal year
2450 shall not lapse into the General Fund, and interest earned on any
2451 amounts deposited into the fund shall be credited to the special
2452 fund.

2453 This section shall stand repealed on July 1, 2020.

2454 **SECTION 53.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
2455 and after July 1, 2014.

