

By: Representative Mettetal

To: Universities and
Colleges; Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 951
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSION ON COLLEGE ACCREDITATION
2 TO ADMINISTER INTERSTATE RECIPROCITY AGREEMENTS THAT WILL ALLOW
3 APPROVED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING AND REGISTERED
4 PROPRIETARY SCHOOLS TO OFFER POSTSECONDARY DISTANCE EDUCATION; AND
5 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section
8 37-101-243, Mississippi Code of 1972:

9 37-101-243. (1) For the purposes of this section, these
10 words are defined as follows:

11 (a) "Commission" means the Commission on College
12 Accreditation created under Section 37-101-241; and

13 (b) "Institution" means and includes institutions of
14 higher learning approved under Section 37-101-241 and proprietary
15 schools and other entities subject to regulation under Section
16 75-60-1 et seq.

17 (2) The commission may enter into and administer interstate
18 reciprocity agreements that allow institutions to offer
19 postsecondary distance education. The commission is further



20 authorized to carry out the following duties as related to
21 interstate reciprocity agreements:

22 (a) Approve or disapprove participation in these
23 agreements by institutions;

24 (b) Establish fees to be paid by participating
25 institutions to cover the commission's direct and indirect
26 administrative costs;

27 (c) Serve as the state point of contact for questions,
28 complaints and other communications;

29 (d) Enter into agreements with other state agencies
30 regarding state responsibilities; and

31 (e) Form committees to assist in establishing policies
32 and procedures.

33 (3) The commission shall not:

34 (a) Require institutions to participate in interstate
35 reciprocity agreements; or

36 (b) Prohibit institutions that do not participate in
37 these agreements from offering postsecondary distance education.

38 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
39 and after July 1, 2015.

