

By: Senator(s) Clarke, Hopson, Carmichael,
Frazier, Jackson (15th), Michel

To: Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2956
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
2 STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING FOR THE SUPPORT AND
3 MAINTENANCE OF FINANCIAL AID SCHOLARSHIP, LOAN AND GRANT PROGRAMS
4 AND THE MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID, FOR FISCAL
5 YEAR 2018.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
8 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State
9 General Fund not otherwise appropriated, to the Board of Trustees
10 of State Institutions of Higher Learning for the support and
11 maintenance of financial aid scholarship, loan and grant programs
12 authorized by law and administered by the Mississippi Office of
13 Student Financial Aid and for support of the Mississippi Office of
14 Student Financial Aid, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017,
15 and ending June 30, 2018.....\$ 37,661,346.00.

16 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
17 necessary, is hereby authorized out of the proceeds derived from
18 any federal funds, grants, donations, fees, or other special
19 source funds which are collected by or otherwise become available



20 including unexpended funds originally appropriated for the purpose
21 of providing funds to the Teacher Education Scholars Program for
22 the period beginning July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014, for the
23 support and maintenance of financial aid scholarship, loan and
24 grant programs authorized by law including funds used as federal
25 matching funds for the GEAR UP Mississippi Scholarship Program and
26 administered by the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid
27 and for support of the Mississippi Office of Student Financial
28 Aid, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017, and ending
29 June 30, 2018.....\$ 2,889,000.00.

30 **SECTION 3.** None of the funds apportioned in this act shall
31 be paid to or for the benefit of any student who applies for the
32 first time, subsequent to July 1, 2017, for assistance through the
33 Assistant Teacher Forgivable Loan established under the provisions
34 of Section 37-106-35, the Southeast Asia POW/MIA Grant established
35 under the provisions of Section 37-106-41, the Public Management
36 Graduate Internship established under the provisions of Section
37 37-106-43, the State Medical Education Loan established under the
38 provisions of Section 37-106-61, the State Dental Education Loan
39 established under the provisions of Section 37-106-63, the
40 Graduate and Professional Degree Forgivable Loan established under
41 the provisions of Section 37-106-65, the Health Care Professions
42 Forgivable Loan established under the provisions of Section
43 37-106-67, or the Family Protection Specialist Social Worker



44 Forgivable Loan established under the provisions of Section
45 37-106-69.

46 **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that of
47 the funds appropriated under the provisions of Section 1, the
48 Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning shall
49 expend from the support of the out-of-state graduate and
50 professional studies program an amount not exceeding the funding
51 necessary, contingent upon the availability of qualified
52 applicants, for nine (9) new entering optometry students and the
53 number of returning optometry students who received funding under
54 the program during the preceding school year.

55 **SECTION 5.** In the allocation of funds appropriated under the
56 provisions of Sections 1 and 2, among the student financial aid
57 programs included herein, it is the intention of the Legislature
58 that priority shall be given and funds shall be first allocated to
59 all students eligible for financial aid under the provisions of
60 Section 37-106-39, Mississippi Code of 1972.

61 **SECTION 6.** All funds provided for in this act shall be
62 accounted for in an annual report, which shall be submitted at the
63 next regular session of the Legislature within ten (10) days after
64 the convening thereof. The report should detail for each grant,
65 scholarship, or loan program the number of recipients, the total
66 amount of awards made, and the average award amount. The report
67 shall include the number of students at each institution receiving
68 financial assistance and the amount of such assistance. For loan



69 programs, the report shall also include a summary of the repayment
70 status and method of repayment for student cohorts as well as an
71 accounting of the receipt of funds in repayment. Furthermore, all
72 funds received and expended shall be reported and otherwise
73 accounted for in accordance with the provisions of Section
74 37-106-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, except where individual
75 identifying information must be withheld pursuant to the Family
76 Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 USC Section 1232g
77 34 CFR Part 99.

78 No public or private institution of higher learning receiving
79 funds under the respective provisions of this act, for the purpose
80 of issuing scholarship grants or loans, shall issue any official
81 transcripts for any persons who have any amount of repayment in
82 arrears on the date such official transcript is requested.

83 **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
84 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2019 shall be submitted to
85 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of
86 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided
87 during the Fiscal Year 2018 budget request process.

88 **SECTION 8.** Any funds appropriated pursuant to this act and
89 paid as a fee to or deposited in a financial institution shall be
90 in compliance with Section 109 of the Constitution of the State of
91 Mississippi and Section 25-4-103, Mississippi Code of 1972.

92 **SECTION 9.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
93 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the



94 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
95 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
96 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
97 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
98 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
99 made without competitive bids.

100 **SECTION 10.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, an
101 amount not to exceed Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00) is
102 provided for the Speech-Language Pathologists Loan Forgiveness
103 Program established under the provisions of Section 37-106-73,
104 Mississippi Code of 1972, and administered by the Mississippi
105 Office of Student Financial Aid.

106 **SECTION 11.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, an
107 amount not to exceed One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars
108 (\$1,500,000.00) is provided for the Teacher Education Scholars
109 Program established under the provisions of Section 37-106-37,
110 Mississippi Code of 1972, and administered by the Mississippi
111 Office of Student Financial Aid.

112 **SECTION 12.** Awards for the Higher Education Legislative Plan
113 Grant Program, authorized by Section 37-106-75, shall be made to
114 applicants meeting all program requirements and found to be in
115 financial need according to the following definition:

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



118 family is less than Thirty-nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars
119 (\$39,500.00); or

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

124 **SECTION 13.** It is the intention of the Legislature that no
125 student should receive undergraduate grant aid through more than
126 one state-supported undergraduate grant program in the same term
127 of enrollment. If a student is eligible for aid through multiple
128 grant programs, the student shall be awarded from the program that
129 awards the larger sum.

130 **SECTION 14.** It is the intention of the Legislature that all
131 students must demonstrate eligibility at the conclusion of each
132 term during the regular academic year in order to continue to
133 receive state-supported aid.

134 **SECTION 15.** It is the intention of the Legislature that in
135 the event that funds are insufficient to fully fund all
136 undergraduate grants according to expressed legislative intent,
137 the undergraduate grants of students attending private
138 universities only shall be prorated.

139 **SECTION 16.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
140 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
141 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
142 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal



143 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
144 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

145 **SECTION 17.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
146 and after July 1, 2017.
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