

## REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

MR. PRESIDENT AND MR. SPEAKER:

We, the undersigned conferees, have had under consideration the amendments to the following entitled BILL:

S. B. No. 2956: Appropriation; IHL - Student Financial Aid.

We, therefore, respectfully submit the following report and recommendation:

1. That the House recede from its Amendment No. 1.
2. That the Senate and House adopt the following amendment:

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

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 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 or 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 twenty-one  
117 (21), and the annual adjusted gross income of the family is less  
118 than Thirty-nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$39,500.00); or

119 (b) The family has annual adjusted gross income of less than  
120 Thirty-nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$39,500.00) plus Five

121 Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for each additional child under the  
122 age of twenty-one (21).

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

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

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

138       **SECTION 16.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
139 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the  
140 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
141 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal  
142 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
143 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

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

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and  
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

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.

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X (SIGNED)  
Clarke

X (SIGNED)  
Read

X (SIGNED)  
Hopson

X (SIGNED)  
Beckett

X (SIGNED)  
McDaniel

X (SIGNED)  
Mettetal