

By: Representative Sykes

To: Universities and
Colleges

HOUSE BILL NO. 89

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 37-125-1, 37-125-3, 37-125-5 AND
2 37-125-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO DESIGNATE JACKSON STATE
3 UNIVERSITY AS THE STATES PREEMINENT PUBLIC URBAN RESEARCH
4 UNIVERSITY; REQUIRING JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE DEDICATED TO
5 THE DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY OF CERTAIN PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND
6 TO SERVE CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS IN A CERTAIN MANNER; AND FOR RELATED
7 PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-125-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10 amended as follows:

11 37-125-1. A body politic and corporate is hereby created by
12 the name of the "Jackson State * * * University" to have perpetual
13 succession, with power to contract and be contracted with, to
14 receive by any legal method of transfer or conveyance, property of
15 any description, to have, hold and employ the same, to make and
16 use a corporate seal, with power to break or change the same, and
17 to adopt bylaws, rules, and regulations for the government of its
18 members, official agents, and employees. * * * Whenever the name
19 "Jackson State College" appears, the same is construed to denote
20 "Jackson State University."



21 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-125-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
22 amended as follows:

23 37-125-3. (1) The object of the Jackson State * * *
24 University shall be to qualify teachers for the public schools of
25 this state by giving instruction in the art and practice of
26 teaching in all branches of study which pertain to industrial
27 training, health, and rural and elementary education, and such
28 other studies as the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of
29 Higher Learning, in cooperation with the State Department of
30 Education, may, from time to time, prescribe.

31 (2) Additionally, with respect to Jackson State University,
32 the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning
33 shall direct the President and Executive Cabinet of Jackson State
34 University to develop and implement a plan for the enhancement of
35 the university and its designation as the state's preeminent
36 public urban research university with the appropriate programs,
37 faculty and facilities.

38 (3) Jackson State University:

39 (a) Has the responsibility, with other publicly funded
40 postsecondary educational institutions, for providing higher
41 education research and graduate study in the Jackson, Mississippi,
42 area;

43 (b) Is designated as the state's preeminent public
44 urban research university with a mission of instruction, research
45 and service;



46 (c) Offers baccalaureate and graduate degrees in the
47 arts and sciences;

48 (d) Emphasizes education addressing urban concerns;

49 (e) Offers the professional and graduate programs
50 approved by the president, executive cabinet and the Board of
51 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning;

52 (f) Shall be dedicated to the development and delivery
53 of comprehensive and high-quality academic programs and services
54 to its university community and the citizens of Mississippi,
55 particularly the citizens of the Jackson, Mississippi, area; and

56 (g) Shall serve a diverse citizenry in an innovative
57 and collaborative manner, all the while exercising its
58 responsibilities with uncompromising integrity through strong, but
59 compassionate, leadership.

60 **SECTION 3.** Section 37-125-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
61 amended as follows:

62 37-125-5. The Jackson State * * * University shall be
63 located on the property situated near the City of Jackson, Hinds
64 County, Mississippi, and containing forty-nine (49) acres more or
65 less north of the Y. & M. V. railroad, west of Dalton street,
66 Section 9, Township 6, Range 1, east, and otherwise known as
67 Jackson College.

68 **SECTION 4.** Section 37-125-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
69 amended as follows:



70 37-125-7. (1) The * * * president of * * * Jackson
71 State * * * University shall be held as the professional adviser
72 of the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning
73 on all matters pertaining to the inside arrangements of buildings,
74 selection of faculty, and course of study. He/she shall have the
75 immediate supervision and management of * * * the university in
76 all its departments, subject however, to the general supervision,
77 management, and direction of the Board of Trustees of State
78 Institutions of Higher Learning.

79 (2) The president shall develop an overall plan that is
80 consistent with the statewide plan for higher education and the
81 university's mission statement:

82 (a) Set forth both long-range and short-range goals,
83 objectives and priorities for postsecondary education, research
84 and service provided by the university;

85 (b) Identifies the role, function and mission of the
86 university;

87 (c) Provides for the enhancement of the university as
88 the state's preeminent public urban research university;

89 (d) Encourages and supports high quality undergraduate
90 and graduate programs on its campus; and

91 (e) Stimulates outreach to the community and state
92 through close relationships with public elementary and secondary
93 schools, business and industry and governmental agencies.



94 **SECTION 5.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
95 and after July 1, 2018.

