

By: Representative Lamar

To: Universities and  
Colleges

HOUSE BILL NO. 519

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-4-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 REQUIRE THE MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD TO IMPLEMENT THE  
3 INTEGRATED CAREER PATHWAYS INITIATIVE KNOWN AS "MISSISSIPPI  
4 INTEGRATED BASIC EDUCATION AND SKILLS TRAINING (MI-BEST)" ON A  
5 STATEWIDE BASIS AND TO RECEIVE AND DISTRIBUTE FUNDING FOR THE  
6 MI-BEST PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-4-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
9 amended as follows:

10 37-4-3. (1) From and after July 1, 1986, there shall be a  
11 Mississippi Community College Board which shall receive and  
12 distribute funds appropriated by the Legislature for the use of  
13 the public community and junior colleges and funds from federal  
14 and other sources that are transmitted through the state  
15 governmental organization for use by said colleges. This board  
16 shall provide general coordination of the public community and  
17 junior colleges, assemble reports and such other duties as may be  
18 prescribed by law.

19 (2) The board shall consist of ten (10) members of which  
20 none shall be an elected official and none shall be engaged in the



21 educational profession. The Governor shall appoint two (2)  
22 members from the First Mississippi Congressional District, one (1)  
23 who shall serve an initial term of two (2) years and one (1) who  
24 shall serve an initial term of five (5) years; two (2) members  
25 from the Second Mississippi Congressional District, one (1) who  
26 shall serve an initial term of five (5) years and one (1) who  
27 shall serve an initial term of three (3) years; and two (2)  
28 members from the Third Mississippi Congressional District, one (1)  
29 who shall serve an initial term of four (4) years and one (1) who  
30 shall serve an initial term of two (2) years; two (2) members from  
31 the Fourth Mississippi Congressional District, one (1) who shall  
32 serve an initial term of three (3) years and one (1) who shall  
33 serve an initial term of four (4) years; and two (2) members from  
34 the Fifth Mississippi Congressional District, one (1) who shall  
35 serve an initial term of five (5) years and one (1) who shall  
36 serve an initial term of two (2) years. All subsequent  
37 appointments shall be for a term of six (6) years and continue  
38 until their successors are appointed and qualify. An appointment  
39 to fill a vacancy which arises for reasons other than by  
40 expiration of a term of office shall be for the unexpired term  
41 only. No two (2) appointees shall reside in the same junior  
42 college district. All members shall be appointed with the advice  
43 and consent of the Senate.

44 (3) There shall be a chairman and vice chairman of the  
45 board, elected by and from the membership of the board; and the



46 chairman shall be the presiding officer of the board. The board  
47 shall adopt rules and regulations governing times and places for  
48 meetings and governing the manner of conducting its business.

49 (4) The members of the board shall receive no annual salary,  
50 but shall receive per diem compensation as authorized by Section  
51 25-3-69, Mississippi Code of 1972, for each day devoted to the  
52 discharge of official board duties and shall be entitled to  
53 reimbursement for all actual and necessary expenses incurred in  
54 the discharge of their duties, including mileage as authorized by  
55 Section 25-3-41, Mississippi Code of 1972.

56 (5) The board shall name a director for the state system of  
57 public junior and community colleges, who shall serve at the  
58 pleasure of the board. Such director shall be the chief executive  
59 officer of the board, give direction to the board staff, carry out  
60 the policies set forth by the board, and work with the presidents  
61 of the several community and junior colleges to assist them in  
62 carrying out the mandates of the several boards of trustees and in  
63 functioning within the state system and policies established by  
64 the Mississippi Community College Board. The Mississippi  
65 Community College Board shall set the salary of the Director of  
66 the Board. The Legislature shall provide adequate funds for the  
67 Mississippi Community College Board, its activities and its staff.

68 (6) The powers and duties of the Mississippi Community  
69 College Board shall be:



70 (a) To authorize disbursements of state appropriated  
71 funds to community and junior colleges through orders in the  
72 minutes of the board.

73 (b) To make studies of the needs of the state as they  
74 relate to the mission of the community and junior colleges.

75 (c) To approve new, changes to and deletions of  
76 vocational and technical programs to the various colleges.

77 (d) To require community and junior colleges to supply  
78 such information as the board may request and compile, publish and  
79 make available such reports based thereon as the board may deem  
80 advisable.

81 (e) To approve proposed new attendance centers (campus  
82 locations) as the local boards of trustees should determine to be  
83 in the best interest of the district. Provided, however, that no  
84 new community/junior college branch campus shall be approved  
85 without an authorizing act of the Legislature.

86 (f) To serve as the state approving agency for federal  
87 funds for proposed contracts to borrow money for the purpose of  
88 acquiring land, erecting, repairing, etc. dormitories, dwellings  
89 or apartments for students and/or faculty, such loans to be paid  
90 from revenue produced by such facilities as requested by local  
91 boards of trustees.

92 (g) To approve applications from community and junior  
93 colleges for state funds for vocational-technical education  
94 facilities.



95 (h) To approve any university branch campus offering  
96 lower undergraduate level courses for credit.

97 (i) To appoint members to the Post-Secondary  
98 Educational Assistance Board.

99 (j) To appoint members to the Authority for Educational  
100 Television.

101 (k) To contract with other boards, commissions,  
102 governmental entities, foundations, corporations or individuals  
103 for programs, services, grants and awards when such are needed for  
104 the operation and development of the state public community and  
105 junior college system.

106 (l) To fix standards for community and junior colleges  
107 to qualify for appropriations, and qualifications for community  
108 and junior college teachers.

109 (m) To have sign-off approval on the State Plan for  
110 Vocational Education which is developed in cooperation with  
111 appropriate units of the State Department of Education.

112 (n) To approve or disapprove of any proposed inclusion  
113 within municipal corporate limits of state-owned buildings and  
114 grounds of any community college or junior college and to approve  
115 or disapprove of land use development, zoning requirements,  
116 building codes and delivery of governmental services applicable to  
117 state-owned buildings and grounds of any community college or  
118 junior college. Any agreement by a local board of trustees of a  
119 community college or junior college to annexation of state-owned



120 property or other conditions described in this paragraph shall be  
121 void unless approved by the board and by the board of supervisors  
122 of the county in which the state-owned property is located.

123 (o) To implement on a statewide basis, through  
124 collaboration with all Mississippi community and junior colleges,  
125 the integrated career pathways initiative known as "Mississippi  
126 Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (MI-BEST)" and to  
127 receive and distribute funds appropriated by the Legislature and  
128 from the federal government and other sources to the community and  
129 junior colleges for the support of MI-BEST.

130 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
131 and after July 1, 2018.

