

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

To: Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2946
(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 2019.

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, 2018,
15 and ending June 30, 2019.....\$ 39,661,874.00.

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 for the support and maintenance of financial aid scholarship, loan
21 and grant programs authorized by law including funds used as
22 federal matching funds for the GEAR UP Mississippi Scholarship
23 Program and administered by the Mississippi Office of Student
24 Financial Aid and for support of the Mississippi Office of Student
25 Financial Aid, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018, and
26 ending June 30, 2019.....\$ 2,609,000.00.

27 **SECTION 3.** None of the funds apportioned in this act shall
28 be paid to or for the benefit of any student who applies for the
29 first time, subsequent to July 1, 2018, for assistance through the
30 Assistant Teacher Forgivable Loan established under the provisions
31 of Section 37-106-35, the Southeast Asia POW/MIA Grant established
32 under the provisions of Section 37-106-41, the Public Management
33 Graduate Internship established under the provisions of Section
34 37-106-43, the State Medical Education Loan established under the
35 provisions of Section 37-106-61, the State Dental Education Loan
36 established under the provisions of Section 37-106-63, the
37 Graduate and Professional Degree Forgivable Loan established under
38 the provisions of Section 37-106-65, the Health Care Professions
39 Forgivable Loan established under the provisions of Section
40 37-106-67, or the Family Protection Specialist Social Worker
41 Forgivable Loan established under the provisions of Section
42 37-106-69.

43 **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that of
44 the funds appropriated under the provisions of Section 1, the



45 Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning shall
46 expend from the support of the out-of-state graduate and
47 professional studies program an amount not exceeding the funding
48 necessary, contingent upon the availability of qualified
49 applicants, for nine (9) new entering optometry students and the
50 number of returning optometry students who received funding under
51 the program during the preceding school year.

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

58 **SECTION 6.** All funds provided for in this act shall be
59 accounted for in an annual report, which shall be submitted at the
60 next regular session of the Legislature within ten (10) days after
61 the convening thereof. The report should detail for each grant,
62 scholarship, or loan program the number of recipients, the total
63 amount of awards made, and the average award amount. The report
64 shall include the number of students at each institution receiving
65 financial assistance and the amount of such assistance. For loan
66 programs, the report shall also include a summary of the repayment
67 status and method of repayment for student cohorts as well as an
68 accounting of the receipt of funds in repayment. Furthermore, all
69 funds received and expended shall be reported and otherwise



70 accounted for in accordance with the provisions of Section
71 37-106-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, except where individual
72 identifying information must be withheld pursuant to the Family
73 Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 USC Section 1232g
74 34 CFR Part 99.

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

80 **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
81 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2020 shall be submitted to
82 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of
83 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided
84 during the Fiscal Year 2019 budget request process.

85 **SECTION 8.** Any funds appropriated pursuant to this act and
86 paid as a fee to or deposited in a financial institution shall be
87 in compliance with Section 109 of the Constitution of the State of
88 Mississippi and Section 25-4-105, Mississippi Code of 1972.

89 **SECTION 9.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
90 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
91 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
92 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
93 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
94 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to



95 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
96 made without competitive bids.

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

103 **SECTION 11.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, an
104 amount not to exceed One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars
105 (\$1,500,000.00) is provided for the Teacher Education Scholars
106 Program established under the provisions of Section 37-106-37,
107 Mississippi Code of 1972, and administered by the Mississippi
108 Office of Student Financial Aid.

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

113 (a) The family has one (1) child under the age of
114 twenty-one (21), and the annual adjusted gross income of the
115 family is less than Thirty-nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars
116 (\$39,500.00); or

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



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

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

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

131 **SECTION 15.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
132 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
133 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
134 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
135 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
136 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

137 **SECTION 16.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
138 and after July 1, 2018.

