

By: Representative Beckett

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 274

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-106-75, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REVISE PROVISIONS OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION LEARNING PLAN GRANT
3 PROGRAM TO ALIGN THE CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS WITH CHANGES IN THE
4 COLLEGE PREPARATORY CURRICULUM REQUIRED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
5 OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING BY REMOVING THE SPECIFIC
6 NUMBER OF UNITS REQUIRED FOR ADMISSION TO A STATE UNIVERSITY; AND
7 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-106-75, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10 amended as follows:

11 37-106-75. (1) The Legislature hereby establishes the
12 Higher Education Legislative Plan Grant Program.

13 (2) For purposes of this section:

14 (a) "Institution of higher education" shall mean any
15 state institution of higher learning or public community or junior
16 college, or any regionally accredited, state-approved, nonprofit
17 two-year or four-year college or university located in the State
18 of Mississippi approved by the board.

19 (b) "Tuition" shall mean the semester or trimester or
20 term charges and all required fees imposed by an institution of



21 higher education as a condition of enrollment by all students.
22 However, for a two-year nonpublic institution of higher education
23 defined in paragraph (a), the tuition payments shall not exceed
24 the average charges and fees required by all of the two-year
25 public institutions of higher education defined in paragraph (a),
26 and for a four-year nonpublic institution of higher education
27 defined in paragraph (a), the tuition payments shall not exceed
28 the average charges and fees required by all of the four-year
29 public institutions of higher education defined in paragraph (a).

30 (3) Subject to the availability of funds, the state may pay
31 the tuition of students who enroll at any state institution of
32 higher education to pursue an academic undergraduate degree who
33 apply for the assistance under the program and who meet all of the
34 following qualifications:

35 (a) Resident of the State of Mississippi. Resident
36 status for the purpose of receiving assistance under this chapter
37 shall be determined in the same manner as resident status for
38 tuition purposes in Sections 37-103-1 through 37-103-29, with the
39 exception of Section 37-103-17;

40 (b) Graduate from high school within the two (2) years
41 preceding the application with a minimum cumulative grade point
42 average of 2.5 calculated on a 4.0 scale;

43 (c) Successfully complete, as certified by the high
44 school counselor or other school official, * * * high school
45 course work which includes the College Preparatory Curriculum



46 (CPC) approved by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of
47 Higher Learning and required for admission into a state
48 university * * *;

49 (d) Have a composite score on the American College Test
50 of at least twenty (20) on the 1989 version or an equivalent
51 concordant value on an enhanced version of such test;

52 (e) Have no criminal record, except for misdemeanor
53 traffic violations; and

54 (f) Be in financial need.

55 (4) Subject to the availability of funds, the state may pay
56 the tuition of students who enroll at any state institution of
57 higher education to pursue an academic undergraduate degree or
58 associate degree who apply for assistance under the program and
59 who meet the qualifications in paragraphs (a), (e) and (f) of
60 subsection (3) but who fail to meet one (1) of the particular
61 requirements established by paragraph (b), (c) or (d) of
62 subsection (3) by an amount of ten percent (10%) or less.

63 (5) To maintain continued state payment of tuition, once
64 enrolled in an institution of higher education, a student shall
65 meet all of the following requirements:

66 (a) Make steady academic progress toward a degree,
67 earning not less than the minimum number of hours of credit
68 required for full-time standing in each academic period requiring
69 such enrollment;



70 (b) Maintain continuous enrollment for not less than
71 two (2) semesters or three (3) quarters in each successive
72 academic year, unless granted an exception for cause by the board;

73 (c) Have a cumulative grade point average of at least
74 2.5 calculated on a 4.0 scale at the end of the first academic
75 year and thereafter maintain such a cumulative grade point average
76 as evaluated at the end of each academic year;

77 (d) Have no criminal record, except for misdemeanor
78 traffic violations; and

79 (e) Be in financial need.

80 (6) The provisions of this section shall be administered by
81 the board. The board may promulgate rules for all matters
82 necessary for the implementation of this section. By rule, the
83 board shall provide for:

84 (a) A mechanism for informing all students of the
85 availability of the assistance provided under this section early
86 enough in their schooling that a salutary motivational effect is
87 possible;

88 (b) Applications, forms, financial audit procedures,
89 eligibility and other program audit procedures and other matters
90 related to efficient operation;

91 (c) A procedure for waiver through the 1996-1997
92 academic year of the program eligibility requirement for
93 successful completion of a specified core curriculum upon proper
94 documentation by the applicant that failure to comply with the



95 requirement is due solely to the fact that the required course or
96 courses were not available to the applicant at the school
97 attended.

98 (7) An applicant shall be found to be in financial need if:

99 (a) The family has one (1) child under the age of
100 twenty-one (21), and the annual adjusted gross income of the
101 family is less than Forty-two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars
102 (\$42,500.00); or

103 (b) The family has an annual adjusted gross income of
104 less than Forty-two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$42,500.00)
105 plus Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for each additional child
106 under the age of twenty-one (21).

107 The annual adjusted gross income of the family shall be
108 verified by completion of the Free Application for Federal Student
109 Aid (FAFSA) and the completion of the verification process if the
110 applicant is selected for it.

111 As used in this subsection, the term "family" for an
112 unemancipated applicant means the applicant, the applicant's
113 parents and other children under age twenty-one (21) of the
114 applicant's parents. The term "family" for an emancipated
115 applicant means the applicant, an applicant's spouse, and any
116 children under age twenty-one (21) of the applicant and spouse.

117 (8) No student shall receive a grant under this section in
118 an amount greater than the tuition charged by the school. The



119 student must apply for a federal grant prior to receiving state
120 funds.

121 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
122 and after July 1, 2020.

