

By: Representatives Stamps, Gibbs (36th),
Thompson, Hudson

To: Agriculture;
Universities and Colleges

HOUSE BILL NO. 546

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS
2 OF HIGHER LEARNING AND THE MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD, IN
3 CONJUNCTION WITH THE BOARDS OF TRUSTEES OF EACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
4 DISTRICT, TO PLAN AND DEVELOP THE CURRICULUM FOR THE INTEGRATION
5 OF AGRICULTURE APPRECIATION AS AN INSTRUCTIONAL COURSE DURING
6 2021-2022 ACADEMIC YEAR, AND TO IMPLEMENT A COURSE IN AGRICULTURE
7 APPRECIATION INTO THE ACADEMIC CURRICULUM OF EACH POSTSECONDARY
8 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION BEGINNING WITH THE 2022-2023 ACADEMIC
9 YEAR; TO PRESCRIBE THE MINIMUM COMPONENTS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE
10 INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1.** Beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year, the
13 Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning and the
14 Mississippi Community College Board, in conjunction with the
15 boards of trustees of each community college district, and in
16 consultation with the director of curriculum at each public
17 postsecondary educational institution, shall require each
18 postsecondary educational institution to incorporate a course in
19 agriculture appreciation into its academic curriculum, as a
20 requirement for graduation. Before the implementation of
21 agriculture appreciation into its academic curriculum, the boards
22 shall, during the 2021-2022 academic year, plan and develop the



curriculum to be integrated into the agriculture appreciation course. At a minimum, the course content for the selected curriculum shall include instructional components in:

(a) Agricultural and life sciences education, which combines food, agriculture and life sciences with social sciences and communications;

(b) Agricultural business, which covers topics such as the marketing of agricultural commodities, the selling of agricultural products and services, the managing of farm and agribusiness operations and the lending of credit to agricultural firms;

(c) Agronomy, which integrates the science and practical application of crop production, soil management and climatology in the production and utilization of food, feed and fiber within an environmentally sound system;

(d) Forestry, which provides an understanding of forest ecosystems, wood technology and products, forest resource management, agro-forestry, urban and community forestry, biodiversity, water quality, wilderness areas and wildlife; and

(e) Horticulture, which provides an understanding of plant growth and development and the culture and management of horticultural crops, including familiarity with turfgrasses, nursery crops, greenhouse crops, fruits, nuts and vegetables.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2021.

