

By: Representatives Barton, Scoggin,
Anthony, Hulum, McLean, Summers

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1277

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE "MISSISSIPPI DUAL CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP
2 PROGRAM ACT OF 2023" TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE POSTSECONDARY
3 EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BOARD; TO DEFINE TERMINOLOGY; TO
4 REQUIRE THE BOARD TO SET THE DATES AND DEADLINES FOR APPLYING FOR
5 FUNDING FOR DUAL CREDIT COURSES OF ELIGIBLE MISSISSIPPI HIGH
6 SCHOOL STUDENTS; TO PROVIDE THAT ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN
7 THE PROGRAM BY POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND STUDENTS
8 ALL ARE REQUIRED TO ADHERE TO THE GUIDELINES PRESCRIBED IN THE
9 PROCEDURES MANUAL FOR THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI DUAL ENROLLMENT AND
10 ACCELERATED PROGRAMS; TO PROVIDE THE RATE AT WHICH PARTICIPATING
11 INSTITUTIONS WILL BE REIMBURSED FOR PARTICIPATING STUDENTS; TO
12 PROVIDE ONLY THE COURSES ON THE "APPROVED ACADEMIC DUAL CREDIT
13 LISTING" ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING IN ORDER TO ENSURE APPROPRIATE
14 ARTICULATION OF COLLEGE CREDITS TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS; TO EXCLUDE
15 THE PARTICIPATION OF EARLY COLLEGE STUDENTS AND DUAL ENROLLED
16 STUDENTS FROM PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE THAT ANY
17 UNEXPENDED BALANCES APPROPRIATED BY THE LEGISLATURE REMAINING
18 AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR SHALL NOT LAPSE INTO THE
19 STATE GENERAL FUND, BUT SHALL CARRY OVER AND BE AVAILABLE FOR
20 EXPENDITURE IN THE SUCCEEDING FISCAL YEAR; AND FOR RELATED
21 PURPOSES.

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

23 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section
24 37-106-85, Mississippi Code of 1972:

25 37-106-85. Sections 37-106-85 through 37-106-93, Mississippi
26 Code of 1972, shall be known and may be cited as the "Mississippi
27 Dual Credit Scholarship Program Act of 2023."



28 **SECTION 2.** The following shall be codified as Section
29 37-106-87, Mississippi Code of 1972:

30 37-106-87. There is hereby created the Mississippi Dual
31 Credit Scholarship Program, to be administered by the Mississippi
32 Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board established
33 under Section 37-106-9. The Board shall set the dates and
34 deadlines for applying for funding for dual credit courses of
35 eligible Mississippi high school students under the provisions of
36 Sections 37-106-85 through 37-106-93 and award scholarships to
37 participating institutions for those who meet the eligibility
38 requirements provided herein.

39 **SECTION 3.** The following shall be codified as Section
40 37-106-89, Mississippi Code of 1972:

41 37-106-89. As used in this act, the following terms shall
42 have the meaning ascribed in this section, unless context of use
43 clearly requires otherwise:

44 (a) "Institution" means any postsecondary educational
45 institution that is a public state-supported institution of higher
46 learning, a public state-supported community or junior college, or
47 any not-for-profit private institution of higher learning in the
48 state. The term does not include proprietary colleges or
49 universities.

50 (b) "Student" means a high school student in a public,
51 private, charter or home-school program in Mississippi.



52 (c) "Board" means the Mississippi Postsecondary
53 Education Financial Assistance Board established in Section
54 37-106-9, which is authorized and empowered to administer the
55 provisions of Chapter 106, Title 37, Mississippi Code of 1972.

56 (d) "Director" means the individual designated by the
57 Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning to
58 administer the provisions of the various financial assistance
59 programs by promulgating the necessary rules and regulations for
60 their effective administration.

61 (e) "Dual enrolled student" means a student who is
62 enrolled in a community or junior college or state institution of
63 higher learning while enrolled in high school, as defined in
64 Section 37-15-37(1) (a).

65 (f) "Dual credit student" means a student who is
66 enrolled in a community or junior college or state institution of
67 higher learning while enrolled in high school and who is receiving
68 high school and college credit for postsecondary coursework, as
69 defined in Section 37-15-38(1) (b).

70 (g) "Manual" means the procedures manual for the State
71 of Mississippi Dual Enrollment and Accelerated Programs of which
72 the contents of the manual are evaluated and approved by the
73 academic officers of both the Mississippi Association of Community
74 Colleges and the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning.

75 (h) "Program" means the Mississippi Dual Credit
76 Scholarship Program.



77 **SECTION 4.** The following shall be codified as Section
78 37-106-91, Mississippi Code of 1972:

79 37-106-91. (1) (a) For institutions to be eligible for
80 participation in the program, the institution shall adhere to the
81 guidelines prescribed in the procedures manual for the State of
82 Mississippi Dual Enrollment and Accelerated Programs, hereinafter
83 the "manual", and the requirements established by the Mississippi
84 Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board for
85 participating institutions set forth in this subsection.

86 (b) Eligibility for funding shall be incorporated into
87 the manual, which shall outline the specific criteria for initial
88 and continued eligibility for participation for institutions, dual
89 enrollment students and dual credit students, respectively. The
90 academic officers of both the Mississippi Association of Community
91 Colleges and the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher
92 Learning shall evaluate and approve the contents of the manual
93 each year.

94 (c) The board shall administer the Dual Credit
95 Scholarship Program as outlined in the manual. Funds for the
96 program shall be distributed by the board to the providing
97 institution of higher education on behalf of each eligible student
98 after the enrollment verification period. Funds shall not be
99 distributed by the board directly to the student.

100 (d) Participation in the Mississippi Dual Credit
101 Scholarship Program is optional for all institutions defined in



102 Section 37-106-89(a). However, in order to qualify for funding,
103 all guidelines in the manual must be followed by each institution.

104 (e) All participating institutions shall be reimbursed
105 at the rate of forty percent (40%) of the average community
106 college credit hour tuition for the current academic year.

107 (f) Participating institutions may elect to exclude
108 specific centers, branch campuses, collegiate academies and middle
109 college's within their governance or purview from participating in
110 the Mississippi Dual Credit Scholarship Program.

111 (2) For students to be eligible for participation in the
112 program, the scholarship applicant shall satisfy the student
113 eligibility requirements prescribed in Procedures Manual for the
114 State of Mississippi Dual Enrollment and Accelerated Programs and
115 the requirements established for student eligibility set forth in
116 this subsection, and accordingly as follows:

117 (a) Each eligible student shall be qualified for
118 funding of up to fifteen (15) dual credit semester credit hours
119 prior to high school graduation;

120 (b) If a dual credit student wishes to undertake more
121 than fifteen (15) dual credit hours, he or she may be charged
122 regular tuition rates or another rate, to be determined by the
123 participating institution;

124 (c) Eligible students must meet the eligibility
125 requirements as outlined in the manual;



126 (d) All students who meet the eligibility requirements
127 as outlined in the manual, regardless of participation method,
128 whether online, at a participating institution's campus, at a high
129 school campus, academic or career and technical education (CTE),
130 shall meet the requirements for funding allocation to the
131 participating institution;

132 (e) All Dual Credit Scholarship Program student
133 recipients shall be required to participate in an advising
134 component related to the Mississippi Articulation and Transfer
135 Tool (MATT) to ensure their understanding of course
136 transferability;

137 (f) Books, course materials, tools, supplies, lab fees,
138 transportation costs and other applicable course fees shall be the
139 responsibility of the student or high school district. Dual
140 Credit Scholarship Program funds shall not cover these costs;

141 (g) Middle college students shall be qualified for the
142 Mississippi Dual Credit Scholarship Program funding only if the
143 institution complies with the requirements of the manual; and

144 (h) Students must be residents of the State of
145 Mississippi. Resident status for the purposes of receiving
146 assistance under this chapter shall be determined in the same
147 manner as resident status for tuition purposes in Sections
148 37-103-1 through 37-103-29, with the exception of Section
149 37-103-17.



150 (3) To ensure appropriate articulation of college credits to
151 other institutions, only the courses on the "Approved Academic
152 Dual Credit Listing" shall be eligible for funding.

153 (4) (a) Early college students are not eligible for the
154 Mississippi Dual Credit Scholarship Program funding.

155 (b) Dual enrolled students are excluded from
156 participating in the Mississippi Dual Credit Scholarship Program.

157 **SECTION 5.** The following shall be codified as Section
158 37-106-93, Mississippi Code of 1972:

159 37-106-93. In addition to the criteria established in
160 Section 37-106-91, the following program participation criteria
161 must be adhered to:

162 (a) Future enrollment at the providing institution
163 cannot be a requirement for a student to be eligible for Dual
164 Credit Scholarship Program funds;

165 (b) All community college career and technical
166 education (CTE) courses shall be eligible for funding;

167 (c) The board shall promulgate rules as necessary to
168 implement and administer this section;

169 (d) The board shall develop rules for ensuring that
170 expenses of the scholarship program in each fiscal year do not
171 exceed funding for the program in that fiscal year. For that
172 purpose, and any other provision of this section to the contrary
173 notwithstanding, the board may limit the acceptance of scholarship
174 applications and may limit the award amount of scholarships;



175 (e) If the state appropriation is insufficient to fully
176 fund all students eligible for participation in the program in a
177 given year, those funds shall be prorated to the student's account
178 at the eligible participating institution by an amount to be
179 determined by the board. The student or school district will then
180 be responsible for the remaining balance due for the course taken
181 at the providing institution;

182 (f) The board may conduct its own annual audits of any
183 institution participating in the Mississippi Dual Credit
184 Scholarship Program. The board may suspend or revoke an
185 institution's eligibility to receive future funds under the
186 program if it finds that the institution has not complied with the
187 provisions of the manual and the requirements established in
188 Section 37-106-91(1);

189 (g) The board may conduct its own annual audits of
190 students participating in the Mississippi Dual Credit Scholarship
191 Program. The board may suspend or revoke a high school's
192 eligibility to participate in the program if it finds the student
193 or high school has not complied with the provisions of the manual
194 and the requirements established in Section 37-106-91(2);

195 (h) The board is authorized to receive one percent
196 (1.0%) of the annual amount appropriated for the program to offset
197 the expenses of administering the program;

198 (i) The average community college credit hour tuition
199 amount for the current academic year, as referenced in Section



200 37-106-91(1)(e), shall be provided annually by the Mississippi
201 Community College Board to the executive director of the board;

202 (j) At the end of the fiscal year, any unexpended
203 balances appropriated by the Legislature for the implementation or
204 administration of the program provided for in Sections
205 37-106-85 through 37-106-93 shall not lapse into the State General
206 Fund, but shall carry over and be available for expenditure in the
207 succeeding fiscal year for the same purpose; and

208 (k) The program requires specific appropriation by the
209 Legislature.

210 **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
211 and after July 1, 2023.

