

By: Representative Scott

To: Universities and
Colleges; Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1461

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE "FORMER COLLEGIATE ATHLETE SCHOLARSHIP
 2 PROGRAM"; TO AUTHORIZE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FORMER COLLEGIATE ATHLETES
 3 WHO DID NOT COMPLETE A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE WHO PURSUE A DEGREE IN
 4 EDUCATION OR ANOTHER DEGREE PROGRAM THAT ENABLES THE INDIVIDUAL TO
 5 BE LICENSED AS A TEACHER THROUGH AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE; TO
 6 AUTHORIZE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS FOR UP TO THREE YEARS; TO REQUIRE A
 7 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT TO RENDER SERVICE AS A PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER
 8 IN EXCHANGE FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP; TO REQUIRE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
 9 OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING TO BE THE ADMINISTERING
 10 AGENCY OF THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is established the "Former Collegiate
 13 Athlete Scholarship Program," the purpose of which is to attract
 14 former collegiate athletes who did not complete a baccalaureate
 15 degree to become licensed teachers by awarding full scholarships
 16 to those persons declaring an intention to serve in the teaching
 17 field who actually render service to the state while possessing an
 18 appropriate teaching license.

19 (2) An individual who has completed at least two (2)
 20 semesters of study as a student athlete in an institution of
 21 higher learning who subsequently is enrolled in or accepted for
 22 enrollment at a teacher education program approved by the State



23 Board of Education or other program at a baccalaureate
24 degree-granting institution of higher learning which will qualify
25 the person to pursue an alternate route teaching license in the
26 State of Mississippi is eligible for a financial scholarship to be
27 applied toward the costs of the individual's college education.
28 To be eligible, a student must express in writing an intention to
29 teach in a public school in the state upon graduation. The annual
30 amount of the award must be equal to the total cost for tuition,
31 room and meals, books, materials and fees at the college or
32 university in which the student is enrolled, not to exceed an
33 amount equal to the highest total cost of tuition, room and meals,
34 books, materials and fees assessed by a state institution of
35 higher learning during that school year.

36 (3) Awards granted under the Former Collegiate Athlete
37 Scholarship Program are available to both full-time and part-time
38 students. Students enrolling on a full-time basis may receive a
39 maximum of three (3) annual awards. The maximum number of awards
40 that may be made to students attending school on a part-time
41 basis, and the maximum time period for part-time students to
42 complete the number of academic hours necessary to obtain a
43 baccalaureate degree in education, shall be established by rules
44 and regulations jointly promulgated by the Board of Trustees of
45 State Institutions of Higher Learning and the State Board of
46 Education. Former Collegiate Athlete Scholarships may not be
47 based upon an applicant's eligibility for financial aid.



48 (4) Except in those cases where employment positions may not
49 be available upon completion of licensure requirements, at the
50 beginning of the first school year in which a recipient of a
51 Former Collegiate Athlete Scholarship is eligible for employment
52 as a licensed teacher or a nontraditional teacher intern pursuant
53 to Section 37-3-2(6)(b), that person shall begin to render service
54 as a licensed teacher or nontraditional teacher intern in a public
55 school district, as approved by the State Board of Education.

56 Persons who received annual awards must render service as follows:

57 (a) A person who received three (3) or fewer annual
58 awards, but more than two (2) annual awards, must render five (5)
59 year's service as a licensed teacher in a public school in
60 Mississippi.

61 (b) A person who received two (2) or fewer annual
62 awards, but more than one (1) annual award, must render three (3)
63 year's service as a licensed teacher in a public school in
64 Mississippi.

65 (c) A person who received one (1) or fewer annual
66 awards must render one (1) year's service as a licensed teacher in
67 a public school in Mississippi.

68 (5) A person failing to complete a program of study that
69 will enable the person to become a licensed teacher or
70 nontraditional teacher intern under Section 37-3-2(6)(b), as the
71 case may be, is liable immediately to the Board of Trustees of
72 State Institutions of Higher Learning for the sum of all Former



73 Collegiate Athlete Scholarship awards made to that person, plus
74 interest accruing at the current Stafford Loan rate at the time
75 the person abrogates participation in the program. A person
76 failing to complete his teaching obligation, as required under
77 subsection (4) of this section, is liable immediately to the board
78 for the sum of all scholarship awards made to that person less the
79 corresponding amount of any awards for which service has been
80 rendered, plus interest accruing at the current Stafford Loan rate
81 at the time the person discontinues service, except in the case of
82 a deferral of debt for cause by the State Board of Education when
83 there is no employment position immediately available upon a
84 teacher's completion of licensure requirements. After the period
85 of deferral, the person must begin or resume teaching duties as
86 required under subsection (4) or become liable to the board under
87 this subsection. If a claim for payment under this subsection is
88 placed in the hands of an attorney for collection, the obligor is
89 liable for an additional amount equal to a reasonable attorney's
90 fee.

91 (6) The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher
92 Learning and the State Board of Education, acting jointly, shall
93 promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the proper
94 administration of the Former Collegiate Athlete Scholarship
95 Program. The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher
96 Learning is the administering agency of the program.



97 (7) If insufficient funds are available to fully fund
98 scholarship awards to all eligible students, the Board of Trustees
99 of State Institutions of Higher Learning shall make the awards to
100 first-time students on a first-come, first-served basis; however,
101 priority consideration must be given to persons previously
102 receiving awards under the Former Collegiate Athlete Scholarship
103 Program.

104 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
105 and after July 1, 2023.

