

By: Senator(s) Parks

To: Universities and
Colleges; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2487

1 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 37-106-85, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
2 1972, TO ESTABLISH THE MISSISSIPPI DUAL CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
3 TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE MISSISSIPPI POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
4 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BOARD; TO SET CERTAIN DEFINITIONS; TO CREATE
5 NEW SECTION 37-106-87, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO SET
6 ELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDING AND PARTICIPATION; TO PROVIDE THAT ALL
7 PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS SHALL BE REIMBURSED AT THE RATE OF 40%
8 OF THE AVERAGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE CREDIT HOUR TUITION RATE FOR THE
9 CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR; TO SET CERTAIN EXCLUSIONS; TO CREATE NEW
10 SECTION 37-106-89, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO SET ELIGIBILITY
11 REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS; TO PROVIDE THAT EACH ELIGIBLE
12 STUDENT MAY BE QUALIFIED FOR FUNDING OF UP TO FIFTEEN DUAL CREDIT
13 SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS PRIOR TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION; TO SET
14 CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROGRAM; TO CREATE NEW SECTION
15 37-106-91, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO SET CERTAIN CRITERIA TO
16 PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE OTHER REQUIREMENTS OF THE
17 PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

19 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section
20 37-106-85, Mississippi Code of 1972:

21 37-106-85. (1) There is hereby created the Mississippi Dual
22 Credit Scholarship Program, to be administered by the Mississippi
23 Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board established
24 under Section 37-106-9. The board shall set the dates and
25 deadlines for applying for funding for dual credit courses of



26 eligible Mississippi high school students under this section and
27 award scholarships for those who meet the eligibility requirements
28 to participating institutions provided herein.

29 (2) As used in this section, the following terms shall have
30 the meaning ascribed in this subsection, unless context clearly
31 requires otherwise:

32 (a) "Institution" means any post-secondary educational
33 institution that is a public state-supported institution of higher
34 learning, a public state-supported community or junior college or
35 any not-for-profit private institution of higher learning in the
36 state. The term does not include proprietary colleges or
37 universities.

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

40 (c) "Board" means the Mississippi Postsecondary
41 Education Financial Assistance Board established in Section
42 37-106-9, which is authorized and empowered to administer the
43 provisions of Title 37, Chapter 106, Mississippi Code of 1972.

44 (d) "Director" means the individual designated by the
45 Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning to
46 administer the provisions of the various financial assistance
47 programs by promulgating the necessary rules and regulations for
48 their effective administration.

49 (e) "Dual Enrolled Student" is "a student who is
50 enrolled in a community or junior college or state institution of



51 higher learning while enrolled in high school" as defined in
52 Section 37-15-37(1) (a), Mississippi Code of 1972.

53 (f) "Dual Credit Student" is "a student who is enrolled
54 in a community or junior college or state institution of higher
55 learning while enrolled in high school and who is receiving high
56 school and college credit for postsecondary coursework" as defined
57 in Section 37-15-38(1) (b), Mississippi Code of 1972.

58 (g) "Manual" means the Procedures Manual for the State
59 of Mississippi Dual Enrollment & Accelerated Programs of which the
60 contents of the Manual are evaluated and approved by the Academic
61 Officers of both the Mississippi Association of Community Colleges
62 and the Mississippi Institutions of higher learning.

63 (h) "Program" means the Mississippi Dual Credit
64 Scholarship Program.

65 **SECTION 2.** The following shall be codified as Section
66 37-106-87, Mississippi Code of 1972:

67 37-106-87. (1) An institution may participate in the
68 program by following the guidelines prescribed in the Procedures
69 Manual for the State of Mississippi Dual Enrollment & Accelerated
70 Programs and the requirements established by the board for
71 participating institutions set forth herein.

72 (2) Eligibility for funding shall be incorporated into the
73 Procedures Manual for the State of Mississippi Dual Enrollment &
74 Accelerated Programs Manual, which will outline the specific
75 criteria. The Academic Officers of both the Mississippi



76 Association of Community Colleges and the Mississippi institutions
77 of higher learning shall evaluate and approve the contents of the
78 manual each year.

79 (3) The board shall administer the Dual Credit Scholarship
80 Program as outlined in the Procedures Manual for the State of
81 Mississippi Dual Enrollment & Accelerated Programs Manual. Funds
82 shall be distributed by the board to the providing higher
83 education institution on behalf of each eligible student after the
84 enrollment verification period. Funds shall not be distributed by
85 the board directly to the student.

86 (4) Participation in the Mississippi Dual Credit Scholarship
87 Program is optional for all institutions defined in subsection
88 2(a) of this section; provided that in order to qualify for
89 funding, all guidelines in the manual must be followed by each
90 institution.

91 (5) All participating institutions shall be reimbursed at
92 the rate of forty percent (40%) of the average community college
93 credit hour tuition rate for the current academic year.

94 (6) Participating institutions may elect to exclude specific
95 centers, branch campuses, collegiate academies and middle
96 college's within their governance or purview from participating in
97 the Mississippi Dual Credit Scholarship Program.

98 **SECTION 3.** The following shall be codified as Section
99 37-106-89, Mississippi Code of 1972:



100 37-106-89. (1) To participate in the program, the
101 scholarship applicant shall satisfy the student eligibility
102 requirements prescribed in the procedures manual for the State of
103 Mississippi Dual Enrollment & Accelerated Programs and the
104 requirements established for student eligibility set forth herein.

105 (2) Each eligible student may be qualified for funding of up
106 to fifteen (15) dual credit semester credit hours prior to high
107 school graduation.

108 (3) If a dual credit student wishes to take more than
109 fifteen (15) dual credit hours, he/she may be charged regular
110 tuition rates or another rate determined by the college.

111 (4) Eligible students must meet the eligibility requirements
112 as outlined in the procedures manual for the State of Mississippi
113 Dual Enrollment & Accelerated Programs Manual.

114 (5) All students who meet the eligibility requirements as
115 outlined in the manual, regardless of participation method, shall
116 meet the requirements for funding allocation to the participating
117 post-secondary educational institution.

118 (6) All Dual Credit Scholarship Program student recipients
119 shall be required to participate in an advising component related
120 to the Mississippi Articulation and Transfer Tool (MATT) to ensure
121 their understanding of course(s) transferability.

122 (7) Books, course materials, tools, supplies, lab fees,
123 transportation costs and other applicable course fees shall be the



124 responsibility of the student or high school district. The Dual
125 Credit Scholarship Program funds shall not cover such costs.

126 (8) To ensure appropriate articulation of college credits to
127 other institutions, only the courses on the "Approved Academic
128 Dual Credit Listing" (Appendix V of the Manual) shall be eligible
129 for funding.

130 (9) Early College students shall not be eligible for the
131 Mississippi Dual Credit Scholarship Program funding.

132 (10) Middle College students shall be qualified for the
133 Mississippi Dual Credit Scholarship Program funding only if the
134 institution complies with the requirements of the Manual.

135 (11) To participate in the program, students must be
136 residents of the State of Mississippi. Resident status for the
137 purposes of receiving assistance under this chapter shall be
138 determined in the same manner as resident status for tuition
139 purposes in Sections 37-103-1 through 37-103-29, with the
140 exception of Section 37-103-17.

141 (12) Dual enrolled students shall be excluded from
142 participating in the Mississippi Dual Credit Scholarship Program.

143 **SECTION 4.** The following shall be codified as Section
144 37-106-91, Mississippi Code of 1972:

145 37-106-91. (1) The following criteria shall be adhered to
146 in order to participate in the program:



147 (a) Future enrollment at the providing institution
148 shall not be required for a student to be eligible for the Dual
149 Credit Scholarship Program funds.

150 (b) All community college career and technical
151 education (CTE) courses shall be eligible for funding.

152 (c) The board shall promulgate rules as necessary to
153 implement and administer this act.

154 (d) The board shall develop rules for ensuring that
155 expenses of the scholarship program in a fiscal year do not exceed
156 funding for the program in that fiscal year. For that purpose,
157 and any other provision of this section to the contrary
158 notwithstanding, the board may limit the acceptance of scholarship
159 applications and may limit the award of scholarships.

160 (e) If the state appropriation is insufficient to fully
161 fund all student participation in the program in a given year,
162 those funds will be prorated to the student's account at the
163 eligible participating institution by an amount to be determined
164 by the board. The student or school district shall then be
165 responsible for the remaining balance due for the course taken to
166 the providing institution.

167 (f) The board may conduct its own annual audits of any
168 institution participating in the Mississippi Dual Credit
169 Scholarship Program. The board may suspend or revoke an
170 institution's eligibility to receive future monies under the
171 program if it finds that the institution has not complied with the



172 provisions of the procedures manual for the State of Mississippi
173 Dual Enrollment & Accelerated Programs and the requirements
174 established in this section.

175 (g) The board may conduct its own annual audits of
176 students participating in the Mississippi Dual Credit Scholarship
177 Program. The board may suspend or revoke a high school's
178 eligibility to participate in the program if it finds the student
179 or high school has not complied with the provisions of the
180 procedures manual for the State of Mississippi Dual Enrollment &
181 Accelerated Programs and the requirements established in this
182 section.

183 (h) The board is hereby authorized to receive one
184 percent (1.0%) of the annual amount appropriated for this program
185 to offset the expenses of administering this program.

186 (i) The average community college credit hour tuition
187 amount for the current academic year shall be provided annually by
188 the Mississippi Community College Board to the Director of the
189 Board.

190 (j) At the end of the fiscal year, any unexpended
191 balances appropriated by the Legislature for the implementation or
192 administration of the program provided for in this section shall
193 not lapse into the State General Fund, but shall carry over and be
194 available for expenditure in the succeeding fiscal year for the
195 same purpose.



196 **SECTION 5.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
197 and after July 1, 2023.

