

By: Senator(s) Parks, Jackson

To: Universities and
Colleges; Appropriations

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 2487

1 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 37-106-85, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
2 1972, TO ESTABLISH THE MISSISSIPPI DUAL ENROLLMENT/DUAL CREDIT
3 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE MISSISSIPPI
4 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BOARD; TO SET CERTAIN
5 DEFINITIONS; TO CREATE NEW SECTION 37-106-87, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
6 1972, TO SET ELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDING AND PARTICIPATION; TO PROVIDE
7 THAT ALL PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS SHALL BE REIMBURSED AT THE
8 RATE OF 40% OF THE AVERAGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE CREDIT HOUR TUITION
9 RATE FOR THE CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR; TO SET CERTAIN EXCLUSIONS; TO
10 CREATE NEW SECTION 37-106-89, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO SET
11 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS; TO PROVIDE THAT EACH
12 ELIGIBLE STUDENT MAY BE QUALIFIED FOR FUNDING OF UP TO FIFTEEN
13 DUAL CREDIT SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS PRIOR TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION;
14 TO SET 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 Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program, to be administered by
23 the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board
24 established under Section 37-106-9. The board shall set the dates
25 and 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 act, the following terms shall have the
30 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
64 Enrollment/Dual Credit 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 Enrollment/Dual
80 Credit Scholarship Program as outlined in the Procedures Manual
81 for the State of Mississippi Dual Enrollment & Accelerated
82 Programs Manual. Funds shall be distributed by the board to the
83 providing higher education institution on behalf of each eligible
84 student after the enrollment verification period. Funds shall not
85 be distributed by the board directly to the student.

86 (4) Participation in the Mississippi Dual Enrollment/Dual
87 Credit Scholarship Program is optional for all institutions
88 defined in subsection 2(a) of this section; provided that in order
89 to qualify for funding, all guidelines in the manual must be
90 followed by each 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 colleges
96 within their governance or purview from participating in the
97 Mississippi Dual Enrollment/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 Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program
119 student recipients shall be required to participate in an advising
120 component related to the Mississippi Articulation and Transfer
121 Tool (MATT) to ensure their understanding of course(s)
122 transferability.

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



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

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

132 (9) Early College students shall not be eligible for the
133 Mississippi Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program
134 funding.

135 (10) Middle College students shall be qualified for the
136 Mississippi Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program
137 funding only if the institution complies with the requirements of
138 the manual.

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

145 (12) Dual enrolled students shall be eligible to participate
146 in the Mississippi Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship
147 Program.

148 **SECTION 4.** The following shall be codified as Section
149 37-106-91, Mississippi Code of 1972:



150 37-106-91. (1) The following criteria shall be adhered to
151 in order to participate in the program:

152 (a) Future enrollment at the providing institution
153 shall not be required for a student to be eligible for the Dual
154 Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program funds;

155 (b) It shall be up to each institution to determine
156 which courses are offered for the Mississippi Dual Enrollment/Dual
157 Credit Scholarship Program. Students shall earn one (1) high
158 school Carnegie unit per three-hour course successfully completed
159 through the program;

160 (c) The board shall promulgate rules as necessary to
161 implement and administer this act;

162 (d) The board shall develop rules for ensuring that
163 expenses of the scholarship program in a fiscal year do not exceed
164 funding for the program in that fiscal year. For that purpose,
165 and any other provision of this section to the contrary
166 notwithstanding, the board may limit the acceptance of scholarship
167 applications and may limit the award of scholarships;

168 (e) If the state appropriation is insufficient to fully
169 fund all student participation in the program in a given year,
170 those funds will be prorated to the student's account at the
171 eligible participating institution by an amount to be determined
172 by the board. The student or school district shall then be
173 responsible for the remaining balance due for the course taken to
174 the providing institution;



175 (f) The board may conduct its own annual audits of any
176 institution participating in the Mississippi Dual Enrollment/Dual
177 Credit Scholarship Program. The board may suspend or revoke an
178 institution's eligibility to receive future monies under the
179 program if it finds that the institution has not complied with the
180 provisions of the procedures manual for the State of Mississippi
181 Dual Enrollment & Accelerated Programs and the requirements
182 established in this section;

183 (g) The board may conduct its own annual audits of
184 students participating in the Mississippi Dual Enrollment/Dual
185 Credit Scholarship Program. The board may suspend or revoke a
186 high school's eligibility to participate in the program if it
187 finds the student or high school has not complied with the
188 provisions of the procedures manual for the State of Mississippi
189 Dual Enrollment & Accelerated Programs and the requirements
190 established in this section;

191 (h) The board is hereby authorized to receive one
192 percent (1.0%) of the annual amount appropriated for this program
193 to offset the expenses of administering this program;

194 (i) The average community college credit hour tuition
195 amount for the current academic year shall be provided annually by
196 the Mississippi Community College Board to the Director of the
197 Board; and

198 (j) At the end of the fiscal year, any unexpended
199 balances appropriated by the Legislature for the implementation or



200 administration of the program provided for in this section shall
201 not lapse into the State General Fund, but shall carry over and be
202 available for expenditure in the succeeding fiscal year for the
203 same purpose.

204 **SECTION 5.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
205 and after July 1, 2023, and shall stand repealed on June 30, 2023.

