

By: Senator(s) Hickman

To: Universities and
Colleges; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2789

1 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 37-99-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
2 1972, TO REQUIRE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF
3 HIGHER LEARNING AND THE BOARDS OF TRUSTEES OF THE COMMUNITY AND
4 JUNIOR COLLEGES TO ADOPT POLICIES REQUIRING EACH PUBLIC
5 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING, COMMUNITY OR JUNIOR COLLEGE TO
6 PROVIDE FREE TRANSCRIPTS TO FOSTER CARE CHILDREN AND CHILDREN
7 PLACED IN THE LEGAL CUSTODY OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF CHILD
8 PROTECTION SERVICES; TO CREATE NEW SECTION 55-3-87, MISSISSIPPI
9 CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT FOSTER CARE CHILDREN AND CHILDREN
10 WHO WERE PREVIOUSLY PLACED IN THE LEGAL CUSTODY OF THE MISSISSIPPI
11 DEPARTMENT OF CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES AND THEIR FAMILY,
12 INCLUDING THEIR BIOLOGICAL PARENTS AND SIBLINGS, THEIR FOSTER
13 PARENTS AND SIBLINGS, THEIR ADOPTED PARENTS AND SIBLINGS, THEIR
14 GUARDIANS OR ANY OTHER MEMBER OF THEIR DIRECT HOUSEHOLD, AS
15 APPLICABLE, SHALL BE ALLOWED FREE ADMISSION TO ANY STATE PARK IN
16 THIS STATE; TO CREATE NEW SECTION 39-41-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
17 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT FOSTER CARE CHILDREN AND CHILDREN WHO WERE
18 PREVIOUSLY PLACED IN THE LEGAL CUSTODY OF THE MISSISSIPPI
19 DEPARTMENT OF CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES AND THEIR FAMILY,
20 INCLUDING THEIR BIOLOGICAL PARENTS AND SIBLINGS, THEIR FOSTER
21 PARENTS AND SIBLINGS, THEIR ADOPTED PARENTS AND SIBLINGS, THEIR
22 GUARDIANS OR ANY OTHER MEMBER OF THEIR DIRECT HOUSEHOLD, AS
23 APPLICABLE, SHALL BE ALLOWED FREE ADMISSION TO ANY PUBLICLY FUNDED
24 MUSEUM IN THIS STATE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

26 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section
27 37-99-3, Mississippi Code of 1972:



28 37-99-3. (1) As used in this section, the following terms
29 shall have the meaning ascribed in this subsection, unless context
30 of use clearly requires otherwise:

31 (a) "Department" means the Mississippi Department of
32 Child Protection Services.

33 (b) "Eligible child" means:

34 (i) Any individual who is younger than twenty-one
35 (21) years of age who was placed in the legal custody of the
36 Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services by a youth
37 court or through other legal means and who was in the legal
38 custody of the department at any time;

39 (ii) Any individual who is younger than twenty-one
40 (21) years of age who was placed in a qualified residential child
41 care agency by a parent, legal guardian, court of competent
42 jurisdiction, or other person or entity acting in the best
43 interest of the individual and who did reside in a qualified
44 residential child care agency at any time; or

45 (iii) Any individual who is younger than
46 twenty-one (21) years of age who was adopted from the department's
47 legal custody or adopted while residing at a qualified residential
48 child care agency as described in paragraph (c) of this subsection
49 at any time.

50 (c) "Qualified residential child care agency" means an
51 entity that provides a home for children and was licensed by the



52 Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services at the time
53 that the eligible child was housed by the agency.

54 (2) The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher
55 Learning and the boards of trustees of the community and junior
56 colleges shall adopt policies requiring each public institution of
57 higher learning, community or junior college to provide free
58 transcripts to an eligible child when requested.

59 **SECTION 2.** The following shall be codified as Section
60 55-3-87, Mississippi Code of 1972:

61 55-3-87. (1) As used in this section, the following terms
62 shall have the meaning ascribed in this subsection, unless context
63 of use clearly requires otherwise:

64 (a) "Department" means the Mississippi Department of
65 Child Protection Services.

66 (b) "Eligible child" means:

67 (i) Any individual who is younger than twenty-one
68 (21) years of age who was placed in the legal custody of the
69 Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services by a youth
70 court or through other legal means and who was in the legal
71 custody of the department at any time;

72 (ii) Any individual who is younger than twenty-one
73 (21) years of age who was placed in a qualified residential child
74 care agency by a parent, legal guardian, court of competent
75 jurisdiction, or other person or entity acting in the best



76 interest of the individual and who did reside in a qualified
77 residential child care agency at any time; or

78 (iii) Any individual who is younger than
79 twenty-one (21) years of age who was adopted from the department's
80 legal custody or adopted while residing at a qualified residential
81 child care agency as described in paragraph (c) of this subsection
82 at any time.

83 (c) "Qualified residential child care agency" means an
84 entity that provides a home for children and was licensed by the
85 Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services at the time
86 that the eligible child was housed by the agency.

87 (d) "State Park" shall mean any land operated by the
88 Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks for the
89 purpose of providing outdoor recreational activities and enjoyment
90 for the citizens of the State of Mississippi and for the purpose
91 of attracting visitors to the state.

92 (2) An eligible child and their family, including their
93 biological parents and siblings, their foster parents and
94 siblings, their adopted parents and siblings, their guardians or
95 any other member of their direct household, as applicable, shall
96 be allowed free admission to any state park in this state.

97 **SECTION 3.** The following shall be codified as Section
98 39-41-1, Mississippi Code of 1972:



99 39-41-1. (1) As used in this section, the following terms
100 shall have the meaning ascribed in this subsection, unless context
101 of use clearly requires otherwise:

102 (a) "Department" means the Mississippi Department of
103 Child Protection Services.

104 (b) "Eligible child" means:

105 (i) Any individual who is younger than twenty-one
106 (21) years of age who was placed in the legal custody of the
107 Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services by a youth
108 court or through other legal means and who was in the legal
109 custody of the department at any time;

110 (ii) Any individual who is younger than twenty-one
111 (21) years of age who was placed in a qualified residential child
112 care agency by a parent, legal guardian, court of competent
113 jurisdiction, or other person or entity acting in the best
114 interest of the individual and who did reside in a qualified
115 residential child care agency at any time; or

116 (iii) Any individual who is younger than
117 twenty-one (21) years of age who was adopted from the department's
118 legal custody or adopted while residing at a qualified residential
119 child care agency as described in paragraph (d) of this subsection
120 at any time.

121 (c) "Museum" means a public agency or institution
122 located in this state and organized on a permanent basis for
123 essentially educational or aesthetic purposes, which utilizes a



124 professional staff, owns or utilizes tangible objects, cares for
125 them, and exhibits them to the public on a regular basis.

126 (d) "Qualified residential child care agency" means an
127 entity that provides a home for children and was licensed by the
128 Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services at the time
129 that the eligible child was housed by the agency.

130 (2) An eligible child and their family, including their
131 biological parents and siblings, their foster parents and
132 siblings, their adopted parents and siblings, their guardians or
133 any other member of their direct household, as applicable, shall
134 be allowed free admission to any publicly funded museum in this
135 state.

136 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
137 and after July 1, 2023.

