AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING FOR THE SUPPORT AND
MAINTENANCE OF FINANCIAL AID SCHOLARSHIP, LOAN AND GRANT PROGRAMS
AND THE MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID, FOR FISCAL
YEAR 2024.

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

SECTION 1. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State
General Fund not otherwise appropriated, to the Board of Trustees
of State Institutions of Higher Learning for the support and
maintenance of financial aid scholarship, loan and grant programs
authorized by law and administered by the Mississippi Office of
Student Financial Aid and for support of the Mississippi Office of
Student Financial Aid, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023,
and ending June 30, 2024.........................$  50,649,256.00.

SECTION 2. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
necessary, is hereby authorized out of the proceeds derived from
any federal funds, grants, donations, fees, or other special
source funds which are collected by or otherwise become available
for the support and maintenance of financial aid scholarship, loan
and grant programs authorized by law including funds used as
federal matching funds for the GEAR UP Mississippi Scholarship
Program and administered by the Mississippi Office of Student
Financial Aid and for support of the Mississippi Office of Student
Financial Aid, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and
ending June 30, 2024...........................$ 4,740,000.00.

SECTION 3. None of the funds appropriated in this act shall
be paid to or for the benefit of any student who applies for the
first time, subsequent to July 1, 2023, for assistance through the
Southeast Asia POW/MIA Grant established under the provisions of
Section 37-106-41, the Public Management Graduate Internship
established under the provisions of Section 37-106-43, the State
Medical Education Loan established under the provisions of Section
37-106-61, the State Dental Education Loan established under the
provisions of Section 37-106-63, the Graduate and Professional
Degree Forgivable Loan established under the provisions of Section
37-106-65, the Health Care Professions Forgivable Loan established
under the provisions of Section 37-106-67, or the Family
Protection Specialist Social Worker Forgivable Loan established
under the provisions of Section 37-106-69.

SECTION 4. It is the intention of the Legislature that of
the funds appropriated under the provisions of Section 1 of this
act, the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher
Learning shall expend from the support of the out-of-state
graduate and professional studies program an amount not exceeding
the funding necessary, contingent upon the availability of
qualified applicants, for nine (9) new entering optometry students
and the number of returning optometry students who received
funding under the program during the preceding school year.

SECTION 5. In the allocation of funds appropriated under the
provisions of Sections 1 and 2 of this act, among the student
financial aid programs included herein, it is the intention of the
Legislature that priority shall be given and funds shall be first
allocated to all students eligible for financial aid under the

SECTION 6. All funds provided for in this act shall be
accounted for in an annual report, which shall be submitted at the
next regular session of the Legislature within ten (10) days after
the convening thereof. The report should detail for each grant,
scholarship, or loan program the number of recipients, the total
amount of awards made, and the average award amount. The report
shall include the number of students at each institution receiving
financial assistance and the amount of such assistance. For loan
programs, the report shall also include a summary of the repayment
status and method of repayment for student cohorts as well as an
accounting of the receipt of funds in repayment. Furthermore, all
funds received and expended shall be reported and otherwise
accounted for in accordance with the provisions of Section
37-106-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, except where individual
identifying information must be withheld pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 USC Section 1232g 34 CFR Part 99.

No public or private institution of higher learning receiving funds under the respective provisions of this act, for the purpose of issuing scholarship grants or loans, shall issue any official transcripts for any persons who have any amount of repayment in arrears on the date such official transcript is requested.

SECTION 7. It is the intention of the Legislature that the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2025 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2024 budget request process.

SECTION 8. Any funds appropriated pursuant to this act and paid as a fee to or deposited in a financial institution shall be in compliance with Section 109 of the Constitution of the State of Mississippi and Section 25-4-105, Mississippi Code of 1972.

SECTION 9. It is the intention of the Legislature that whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price, quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are made without competitive bids.
SECTION 10. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this act, an amount not to exceed Seventy Thousand Dollars ($70,000.00) is provided for the Speech-Language Pathologists Loan Forgiveness Program established under the provisions of Section 37-106-73, Mississippi Code of 1972, and administered by the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid.

SECTION 11. Awards for the Higher Education Legislative Plan Grant Program, authorized by Section 37-106-75, shall be made to applicants meeting all program requirements and found to be in financial need according to the following definition:

(a) The family has one (1) child under the age of twenty-one (21), and the annual adjusted gross income of the family is less than Thirty-nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars ($39,500.00); or

(b) The family has annual adjusted gross income of less than Thirty-nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars ($39,500.00) plus Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000.00) for each additional child under the age of twenty-one (21).

SECTION 12. Of the funds appropriated in Section 2 of this act, Two Million Dollars ($2,000,000.00) shall be derived from funds in the Education Enhancement Fund deposited pursuant to Sections 27-65-75 and 27-67-31, Mississippi Code of 1972. This amount shall be used for the William F. Winter and Jack Reed, Sr. Teacher Loan Repayment Program established in HB 1179, 2021 Regular Session.
SECTION 13. Of the funds appropriated in Section 2 of this act, One Million Dollars ($1,000,000.00) shall be derived from funds in the Education Enhancement Fund deposited pursuant to Sections 27-65-75 and 27-67-31, Mississippi Code of 1972. This amount shall be used for the Fostering Access and Inspiring True Hope (FAITH) Scholarship Program Act established in HB 1313, 2022 Regular Session.

SECTION 14. It is the intention of the Legislature that no student should receive undergraduate grant aid through more than one state-supported undergraduate grant program in the same term of enrollment. If a student is eligible for aid through multiple grant programs, the student shall be awarded from the program that awards the larger sum.

SECTION 15. It is the intention of the Legislature that all students must demonstrate eligibility at the conclusion of each term during the regular academic year in order to continue to receive state-supported aid.

SECTION 16. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Education Enhancement Fund not otherwise appropriated, to the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid for the purpose of reauthorizing the expenditure of Education Enhancement Funds to defray the expenses of the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid, as authorized in Senate Bill 3009, 2022 Regular Session, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024......
This appropriation is made for the purpose of reauthorizing the expenditure of funds for the following:

(a) William F. Winter and Jack Reed, Sr., Teacher Loan Repayment Program..............................$ 1,100,000.00

(b) Fostering Access and Inspiring True Hope (FAITH) Scholarship Program Act.........................$ 1,000,000.00

Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section, the amount that may be expended under the authority of this section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds remaining as of June 30, 2023, from the amount authorized for the previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

SECTION 17. The money herein appropriated shall be paid by the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer, and the State Fiscal Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

SECTION 18. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2023.