

By: Representatives Roberson, Boyd (37th),
Massengill

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1107

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DISCONTINUATION OF END-OF-COURSE
2 SUBJECT AREA TEST IN UNITED STATES HISTORY; TO AMEND SECTIONS
3 37-16-7, 37-3-49, 37-15-38, 37-16-17 AND 37-35-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE
4 OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY TO THE PRECEDING PROVISIONS; AND FOR
5 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, the State
8 Board of Education shall cease to require the administration of
9 all end-of-course subject area test in United States History, and
10 shall only require the administration of subject area tests for
11 courses in English II, Algebra I and Biology. The State Board of
12 Education shall adopt a policy abolishing the requirement of
13 administration of the United States History end-of-course subject
14 area test to all public high school students, which in previous
15 academic years, has been required for a student to meet the
16 requirements for a standard Mississippi high school diploma and as
17 a factor in accountability ratings.

18 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-16-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
19 amended as follows:



20 37-16-7. (1) Each district school board shall establish
21 standards for graduation from its schools which shall include as a
22 minimum:

23 (a) Mastery of minimum academic skills as measured by
24 assessments developed and administered by the State Board of
25 Education * * *; and

26 (b) Completion of a minimum number of academic credits,
27 and all other applicable requirements prescribed by the district
28 school board.

29 (* * *2) The school board of each school district shall
30 maintain, by school, information on high school graduation rates.
31 High schools with graduation rates lower than eighty percent (80%)
32 must submit a detailed plan to the * * * State Department of
33 Education to restructure the high school experience to improve
34 graduation rates.

35 (* * *3) A student who meets all requirements prescribed in
36 subsection (1) of this section shall be awarded a standard diploma
37 in a form prescribed by the State Board of Education.

38 (* * *4) The State Board of Education may establish student
39 proficiency standards for promotion to grade levels leading to
40 graduation.

41 **SECTION 3.** Section 37-3-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
42 amended as follows:

43 37-3-49. (1) The State Department of Education shall
44 provide an instructional program and establish guidelines and



45 procedures for managing such program in the public schools within
46 the school districts throughout the state as part of the State
47 Program of Educational Accountability and Assessment of
48 Performance as prescribed in Section 37-3-46. Public school
49 districts may (a) elect to adopt the instructional program and
50 management system provided by the State Department of Education,
51 or (b) elect to adopt an instructional program and management
52 system which meets or exceeds criteria established by the State
53 Department of Education for such. This provision shall begin with
54 the courses taught in Grades K-8 which contain skills tested
55 through the Mississippi Basic Skills Assessment Program and shall
56 proceed through all secondary school courses mandated for
57 graduation and all secondary school courses in the * * *
58 end-of-course testing program in the subject areas of English II,
59 Algebra I and Biology. Other state core objectives must be
60 included in the district's instructional program as they are
61 provided by the State Department of Education along with
62 instructional practices, resources, evaluation items and
63 management procedures. Districts are encouraged to adapt this
64 program and accompanying procedures to all other instructional
65 areas. The department shall provide that such program and
66 guidelines, or a program and guidelines developed by a local
67 school district which incorporates the core objectives from the
68 curriculum structure are enforced through the performance-based
69 accreditation system. It is the intent of the Legislature that



70 every effort be made to protect the instructional time in the
71 classroom and reduce the amount of paperwork which must be
72 completed by teachers. The State Department of Education shall
73 take steps to insure that school districts properly use staff
74 development time to work on the districts' instructional
75 management plans.

76 (2) The State Department of Education shall provide such
77 instructional program and management guidelines which shall
78 require for every public school district that:

79 (a) All courses taught in Grades K-8 which contain
80 skills which are tested through the Mississippi Basic Skills
81 Assessment Program, all secondary school courses mandated for
82 graduation, and all courses in the end-of-course testing program
83 in the subject areas of English II, Algebra I and Biology shall
84 include the State Department of Education's written list of
85 learning objectives.

86 (b) The local school board must adopt the objectives
87 that will form the core curriculum which will be systematically
88 delivered throughout the district.

89 (c) The set of objectives provided by the State
90 Department of Education must be accompanied by suggested
91 instructional practices and resources that would help teachers
92 organize instruction so as to promote student learning of the
93 objectives. Objectives added by the school district must also be
94 accompanied by suggested instructional practices and resources



95 that would help teachers organize instruction. The instructional
96 practices and resources that are identified are to be used as
97 suggestions and not as requirements that teachers must follow.
98 The goal of the program is to have students to achieve the desired
99 objective and not to limit teachers in the way they teach.

100 (d) Standards for student performance must be
101 established for each core objective in the local program and those
102 standards establish the district's definition of mastery for each
103 objective.

104 (e) There shall be an annual review of student
105 performance in the instructional program against locally
106 established standards. When weaknesses exist in the local
107 instructional program, the district shall take action to improve
108 student performance.

109 (3) The State Board of Education and the board of trustees
110 of each school district shall adopt policies to limit and reduce
111 the number and length of written reports that classroom teachers
112 are required to prepare.

113 (4) This section shall not be construed to limit teachers
114 from using their own professional skills to help students master
115 instructional objectives, nor shall it be construed as a call for
116 more detailed or complex lesson plans or any increase in testing
117 at the local school district level.



118 (5) Districts meeting the highest levels of accreditation
119 standards, as defined by the State Board of Education, shall be
120 exempted from the provisions of subsection (2) of this section.

121 **SECTION 4.** Section 37-15-38, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
122 amended as follows:

123 37-15-38. (1) The following phrases have the meanings
124 ascribed in this section unless the context clearly requires
125 otherwise:

126 (a) A dual enrolled student is a student who is
127 enrolled in a community or junior college or state institution of
128 higher learning while enrolled in high school.

129 (b) A dual credit student is a student who is enrolled
130 in a community or junior college or state institution of higher
131 learning while enrolled in high school and who is receiving high
132 school and college credit for postsecondary coursework.

133 (2) A local school board, the Board of Trustees of State
134 Institutions of Higher Learning and the Mississippi Community
135 College Board shall establish a dual enrollment system under which
136 students in the school district who meet the prescribed criteria
137 of this section may be enrolled in a postsecondary institution in
138 Mississippi while they are still in school.

139 (3) **Dual credit eligibility.** Before credits earned by a
140 qualified high school student from a community or junior college
141 or state institution of higher learning may be transferred to the



142 student's home school district, the student must be properly
143 enrolled in a dual enrollment program.

144 (4) **Admission criteria for dual enrollment in community and**
145 **junior college or university programs.** The Mississippi Community
146 College Board and the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of
147 Higher Learning may recommend to the State Board of Education
148 admission criteria for dual enrollment programs under which high
149 school students may enroll at a community or junior college or
150 university while they are still attending high school and enrolled
151 in high school courses. Students may be admitted to enroll in
152 community or junior college courses under the dual enrollment
153 programs if they meet that individual institution's stated dual
154 enrollment admission requirements.

155 (5) **Tuition and cost responsibility.** Tuition and costs for
156 university-level courses and community and junior college courses
157 offered under a dual enrollment program may be paid for by the
158 postsecondary institution, the local school district, the parents
159 or legal guardians of the student, or by grants, foundations or
160 other private or public sources. Payment for tuition and any
161 other costs must be made directly to the credit-granting
162 institution.

163 (6) **Transportation responsibility.** Any transportation
164 required by a student to participate in the dual enrollment
165 program is the responsibility of the parent, custodian or legal
166 guardian of the student. Transportation costs may be paid from



167 any available public or private sources, including the local
168 school district.

169 (7) **School district average daily attendance credit.** When
170 dually enrolled, the student may be counted, for adequate
171 education program funding purposes, in the average daily
172 attendance of the public school district in which the student
173 attends high school.

174 (8) **High school student transcript transfer requirements.**
175 Grades and college credits earned by a student admitted to a dual
176 credit program must be recorded on the high school student record
177 and on the college transcript at the university or community or
178 junior college where the student attends classes. The transcript
179 of the university or community or junior college coursework may be
180 released to another institution or applied toward college
181 graduation requirements.

182 (9) **Determining factor of prerequisites for dual enrollment**
183 **courses.** Each university and community or junior college
184 participating in a dual enrollment program shall determine course
185 prerequisites. Course prerequisites shall be the same for dual
186 enrolled students as for regularly enrolled students at that
187 university or community or junior college.

188 (10) **Process for determining articulation of curriculum**
189 **between high school, university, and community and junior college**
190 **courses.** All dual credit courses must meet the standards
191 established at the postsecondary level. Postsecondary level



192 developmental courses may not be considered as meeting the
193 requirements of the dual credit program. Dual credit memorandum
194 of understandings must be established between each postsecondary
195 institution and the school district implementing a dual credit
196 program.

197 (11) [Deleted]

198 (12) **Eligible courses for dual credit programs.** Courses
199 eligible for dual credit include, but are not necessarily limited
200 to, foreign languages, advanced math courses, advanced science
201 courses, performing arts, advanced business and technology, and
202 career and technical courses. Distance Learning Collaborative
203 Program courses approved under Section 37-67-1 shall be fully
204 eligible for dual credit. All courses being considered for dual
205 credit must receive unconditional approval from the superintendent
206 of the local school district and the chief instructional officer
207 at the participating community or junior college or university in
208 order for college credit to be awarded. A university or community
209 or junior college shall make the final decision on what courses
210 are eligible for semester hour credits.

211 (13) **High school Carnegie unit equivalency.** One (1)
212 three-hour university or community or junior college course is
213 equal to one (1) high school Carnegie unit.

214 (14) **Course alignment.** The universities, community and
215 junior colleges and the State Department of Education shall
216 periodically review their respective policies and assess the place



217 of dual credit courses within the context of their traditional
218 offerings.

219 (15) **Maximum dual credits allowed.** It is the intent of the
220 dual enrollment program to make it possible for every eligible
221 student who desires to earn a semester's worth of college credit
222 in high school to do so. A qualified dually enrolled high school
223 student must be allowed to earn an unlimited number of college or
224 university credits for dual credit.

225 (16) **Dual credit program allowances.** A student may be
226 granted credit delivered through the following means:

227 (a) Examination preparation taught at a high school by
228 a qualified teacher. A student may receive credit at the
229 secondary level after completion of an approved course and passing
230 the standard examination, such as an Advanced Placement or
231 International Baccalaureate course through which a high school
232 student is allowed CLEP credit by making a three (3) or higher on
233 the end-of-course examination.

234 (b) College or university courses taught at a high
235 school or designated postsecondary site by a qualified teacher who
236 is an employee of the school district and approved as an
237 instructor by the collaborating college or university.

238 (c) College or university courses taught at a college,
239 university or high school by an instructor employed by the college
240 or university and approved by the collaborating school district.



241 (d) Online courses of any public university, community
242 or junior college in Mississippi.

243 (17) **Qualifications of dual credit instructors.** A dual
244 credit academic instructor must meet the requirements set forth by
245 the regional accrediting association (Southern Association of
246 College and Schools). University and community and junior college
247 personnel have the sole authority in the selection of dual credit
248 instructors.

249 A dual credit career and technical education instructor must
250 meet the requirements set forth by the Mississippi Community
251 College Board in the qualifications manual for postsecondary
252 career and technical personnel.

253 (18) **Guidance on local agreements.** The Chief Academic
254 Officer of the State Board of Trustees of State Institutions of
255 Higher Learning and the Chief Instructional Officers of the
256 Mississippi Community College Board and the State Department of
257 Education, working collaboratively, shall develop a template to be
258 used by the individual community and junior colleges and
259 institutions of higher learning for consistent implementation of
260 the dual enrollment program throughout the State of Mississippi.

261 (19) **Mississippi Works Dual Enrollment-Dual Credit Option.**
262 A local school board and the local community colleges board shall
263 establish a Mississippi Works Dual Enrollment-Dual Credit Option
264 Program under which potential or recent student dropouts may
265 dually enroll in their home school and a local community college



266 in a dual credit program consisting of high school completion
267 coursework and a community college credential, certificate or
268 degree program. Students completing the dual enrollment-credit
269 option may obtain their high school diploma while obtaining a
270 community college credential, certificate or degree. The
271 Mississippi Department of Employment Security shall assist
272 students who have successfully completed the Mississippi Works
273 Dual Enrollment-Dual Credit Option in securing a job upon the
274 application of the student or the participating school or
275 community college. The Mississippi Works Dual Enrollment-Dual
276 Credit Option Program will be implemented statewide in the
277 2012-2013 school year and thereafter. The State Board of
278 Education, local school board and the local community college
279 board shall establish criteria for the Dual Enrollment-Dual Credit
280 Program. Students enrolled in the program will not be eligible to
281 participate in interscholastic sports or other extracurricular
282 activities at the home school district. Tuition and costs for
283 community college courses offered under the Dual Enrollment-Dual
284 Credit Program shall not be charged to the student, parents or
285 legal guardians. When dually enrolled, the student shall be
286 counted for adequate education program funding purposes, in the
287 average daily attendance of the public school district in which
288 the student attends high school, as provided in Section
289 37-151-7(1)(a). Any transportation required by the student to
290 participate in the Dual Enrollment-Dual Credit Program is the



291 responsibility of the parent or legal guardian of the student, and
292 transportation costs may be paid from any available public or
293 private sources, including the local school district. Grades and
294 college credits earned by a student admitted to this Dual
295 Enrollment-Dual Credit Program shall be recorded on the high
296 school student record and on the college transcript at the
297 community college and high school where the student attends
298 classes. The transcript of the community college coursework may
299 be released to another institution or applied toward college
300 graduation requirements. Except for United States History, any
301 course that is required for subject area testing as a requirement
302 for graduation from a public school in Mississippi is eligible for
303 dual credit * * *. Courses eligible for dual credit * * * include
304 career, technical and degree program courses. All courses
305 eligible for dual credit shall be approved by the superintendent
306 of the local school district and the chief instructional officer
307 at the participating community college in order for college credit
308 to be awarded. A community college shall make the final decision
309 on what courses are eligible for semester hour credits and the
310 local school superintendent, subject to approval by the
311 Mississippi Department of Education, shall make the final decision
312 on the transfer of college courses credited to the student's high
313 school transcript.

314 **SECTION 5.** Section 37-16-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
315 amended as follows:



316 37-16-17. (1) **Purpose.** (a) The purpose of this section is
317 to create a quality option in Mississippi's high schools for
318 students not wishing to pursue a baccalaureate degree, which shall
319 consist of challenging academic courses and modern
320 career-technical studies. The goal for students pursuing the
321 career technical education pathways is to graduate from high
322 school with a standard diploma and credit toward a community
323 college certification in a career-technical field. These students
324 also shall be encouraged to take the national assessment in the
325 career-technical field in which they become certified.

326 (b) The State Board of Education shall develop and
327 adopt course and curriculum requirements for career technical
328 education pathways offered by local public school boards in
329 accordance with this section. The Mississippi Community College
330 Board and the State Board of Education jointly shall determine
331 course and curriculum requirements for the career technical
332 education pathways. The State Board of Education shall require
333 school districts to provide notice to all incoming middle school
334 students and junior high students of the career technical
335 education pathways offered by local school boards. Such notice
336 shall include the career technical education pathways available,
337 the course requirements of each pathway, how to enroll in the
338 pathway and any other necessary information as determined by the
339 State Board of Education.



340 (2) **Career technical education pathway; description;**
341 **curriculum.** (a) A career technical education pathway shall
342 provide a student with greater technical skill and a strong
343 academic core and shall be offered to each high school student
344 enrolled in a public school district. The career technical
345 education pathway shall be linked to postsecondary options and
346 shall prepare students to pursue either a degree or certification
347 from a postsecondary institution, an industry-based training or
348 certification, an apprenticeship, the military, or immediate
349 entrance into a career field. The career technical education
350 pathway shall provide students with alternatives to entrance into
351 a four-year university or college after high school graduation.
352 (b) Students pursuing a career technical education
353 pathway shall be afforded the opportunity to dually enroll in a
354 community or technical college or to participate in a business
355 internship or work-study program, when such opportunities are
356 available and appropriate.
357 (c) Each public school district shall offer a career
358 technical education pathway approved by the State Board of
359 Education.
360 (d) Students in a career technical education pathway
361 shall complete an academic core of courses and a career and
362 technical sequence of courses.
363 (e) Students pursuing a career technical education
364 pathway must complete the twenty-four (24) course unit



365 requirements for a regular high school diploma, which may include,
366 but not be limited to the following course content:

- 367 (i) English I;
- 368 (ii) English II;
- 369 (iii) Technical writing;
- 370 (iv) Computer programming;
- 371 (v) Algebra I;
- 372 (vi) Personal Finance;
- 373 (vii) Advanced technical mathematics;
- 374 (viii) Computer Science;
- 375 (ix) Biology;
- 376 (x) Earth and Space Science;
- 377 (xi) U.S. History;
- 378 (xii) Mississippi Studies/U.S. Government;
- 379 (xiii) Health;
- 380 (xiv) Physical Education;
- 381 (xv) Soft skills, which include, but are not
382 limited to, communication ability, language skills, time
383 management, teamwork and leadership traits;
- 384 (xvi) Career technical education pathway courses;
- 385 and
- 386 (xvii) Integrated technology.

387 Academic courses within the career technical education
388 pathway of the standard diploma shall provide the knowledge and



389 skill necessary for proficiency on the state subject area tests in
390 English II, Algebra I and Biology.

391 (f) The courses provided in paragraph (e) of this
392 subsection may be tailored to the individual needs of the school
393 district as long as the amendments align with the basic course
394 requirements of paragraph (e).

395 (3) Nothing in this section shall disallow the development
396 of a dual enrollment program with a technical college so long as
397 an individual school district, with approval from the State
398 Department of Education, agrees to implement such a program in
399 connection with a technical college and the agreement is also
400 approved by the proprietary school's commission.

401 **SECTION 6.** Section 37-35-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
402 amended as follows:

403 37-35-3. (1) The board of trustees of any school district,
404 including any community/junior college, may establish and maintain
405 classes for adults, including general educational development
406 classes, under the regulations authorized in this chapter and
407 pursuant to the standards prescribed in subsection (3). The
408 property and facilities of the public school districts may be used
409 for this purpose where such use does not conflict with uses
410 already established.

411 (2) The trustees of any school district desiring to
412 establish such program may request the taxing authority of the
413 district to levy additional ad valorem taxes for the support of



414 this program. The board of supervisors, in the case of a county
415 school district, a special municipal separate school district, or
416 a community/junior college district, and the governing authority
417 of any municipality, in the case of a municipal separate school
418 district, is authorized, in its discretion, to levy a tax not
419 exceeding one (1) mill upon all the taxable property of the
420 district for the support of this program. The tax shall be in
421 addition to all other taxes authorized by law to be levied. In
422 addition to the funds realized from any such levy, the board of
423 trustees of any school district is authorized to use any surplus
424 funds that it may have or that may be made available to it from
425 local sources to supplement this program.

426 (3) (a) Any student participating in an approved High
427 School Equivalency Diploma Option program administered by a local
428 school district or a local school district with an approved
429 contractual agreement with a community/junior college or other
430 local entity shall not be considered a dropout. Students in such
431 a program administered by a local school district shall be
432 considered as enrolled within the school district of origin for
433 the purpose of enrollment for minimum program funding only. Such
434 students shall not be considered as enrolled in the regular school
435 program for academic or programmatic purposes.

436 (b) Students participating in an approved High School
437 Equivalency Diploma Option program shall have an individual career
438 plan developed at the time of placement to insure that the



439 student's academic and job skill needs will be met. The
440 Individual Career Plan will address, but is not limited to, the
441 following:

442 (i) Academic/instructional needs of the student;
443 (ii) Job readiness needs of the student; and
444 (iii) Work experience program options available
445 for the student.

446 (c) Students participating in an approved High School
447 Equivalency Diploma Option program may participate in existing job
448 and skills development programs or in similar programs developed
449 in conjunction with the High School Equivalency Diploma Option
450 program and the vocational director.

451 (d) High School Equivalency Diploma Option programs may
452 be operated by local school districts or may be operated by two
453 (2) or more adjacent school districts, pursuant to a contract
454 approved by the State Board of Education. When two (2) or more
455 school districts contract to operate a High School Equivalency
456 Diploma Option program, the school board of a district designated
457 to be the lead district shall serve as the governing board of the
458 High School Equivalency Diploma Option program. Transportation
459 for students placed in the High School Equivalency Diploma Option
460 program shall be the responsibility of the school district of
461 origin. The expense of establishing, maintaining and operating
462 such High School Equivalency Diploma Option programs may be paid
463 from funds made available to the school district through



464 contributions, minimum program funds or from local district
465 maintenance funds.

466 (e) The State Department of Education will develop
467 procedures and criteria for placement of a student in the High
468 School Equivalency Diploma Option programs. Students placed in
469 High School Equivalency Diploma Option programs shall have
470 parental approval for such placement and must meet the following
471 criteria:

472 (i) The student must be at least sixteen (16)
473 years of age;

474 (ii) The student must be at least one (1) full
475 grade level behind his or her ninth grade cohort or must have
476 acquired less than four (4) Carnegie units;

477 (iii) The student must have taken every
478 opportunity to continue to participate in coursework leading to a
479 diploma; and

480 (iv) The student must be certified to be eligible
481 to participate in the GED course by the school district
482 superintendent, based on the developed criteria.

483 (f) Students participating in an approved High School
484 Equivalency Diploma Option program, who are enrolled in subject
485 area courses through January 31 in a school with a traditional
486 class schedule or who are enrolled in subject area courses through
487 October 31 or through March 31 in a school on a block schedule,
488 notwithstanding courses in United States History, shall be



489 required to take the end-of-course subject area tests for those
490 courses in which they are enrolled.

491 **SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
492 and after July 1, 2024.

