

By: Representative Scoggin

To: Education;
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 1283

1 AN ACT TO REVISE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE MISSISSIPPI DUAL
2 ENROLLMENT/DUAL CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; TO BRING FORWARD
3 SECTION 37-109-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH ESTABLISHES THE
4 PROGRAM, FOR PURPOSES OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS; TO AMEND SECTION
5 37-109-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE THE DEFINITION OF
6 "STUDENT" TO INCLUDE THOSE IN A PRIVATE SCHOOL OR LEGITIMATE
7 HOME-SCHOOL PROGRAM; TO AMEND SECTION 37-109-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE
8 OF 1972, TO EXPAND THE GRADE LEVEL AT WHICH STUDENTS MAY ENTER THE
9 PROGRAM IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE THE GRADE AT WHICH STUDENTS BECOME
10 ELIGIBLE TO TAKE CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) COURSES; TO
11 INCREASE THE NUMBER OF DUAL ENROLLMENT/DUAL CREDIT HOURS ELIGIBLE
12 STUDENTS MAY EARN IN THE PROGRAM BEFORE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION TO
13 SEVEN SEMESTER HOURS; TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT OF EARNING A FINAL
14 GRADE OF "C" OR HIGHER IN ORDER FOR THE CREDIT TO TRANSFER TO A
15 POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTION; TO CLARIFY THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH FUNDS
16 RECEIVED FROM THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CAN BE USED; TO REMOVE THE
17 LIMITATION OF COURSES AVAILABLE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING FOR PURPOSE
18 OF ENSURING EFFICIENT ARTICULATION OF COLLEGE CREDITS; TO AMEND
19 SECTION 37-109-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REMOVE THE
20 LIMITATION OF ONLY CTE COURSES APPROVED FOR FUNDING UNDER THE
21 PROCEDURES MANUAL FOR THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI DUAL ENROLLMENT AND
22 ACCELERATED PROGRAMS; TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT OF WEIGHING THE
23 FINAL GRADE IN A DUAL ENROLLMENT/DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM IN AN
24 EQUIVALENT VALUE AS THE FINAL SCORE OBTAINED ON AN ADVANCED
25 PLACEMENT END-OF-COURSE EXAMINATION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

27 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-109-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
28 brought forward as follows:



29 37-109-3. There is hereby created the Mississippi Dual
30 Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program, to be administered by
31 the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board
32 established under Section 37-106-9. The board shall set the dates
33 and deadlines for applying for funding for dual enrollment/dual
34 credit courses of eligible Mississippi high school students under
35 the provisions of Sections 37-109-1 through 37-109-9 and award
36 scholarships to participating institutions for those who meet the
37 eligibility requirements provided herein.

38 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-109-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
39 amended as follows:

40 37-109-5. As used in this chapter, the following terms shall
41 have the meaning ascribed in this section, unless the context
42 clearly requires otherwise:

43 (a) "Institution" means any postsecondary educational
44 institution that is a public state-supported institution of higher
45 learning, a public state-supported community or junior college, or
46 any not-for-profit private institution of higher learning in the
47 state. The term does not include proprietary colleges or
48 universities.

49 (b) "Student" means a high school student in a public
50 school, private school, legitimate home-school program or charter
51 school program in Mississippi.

52 (c) "Board" means the Mississippi Postsecondary
53 Education Financial Assistance Board established in Section



54 37-106-9, which is authorized and empowered to administer the
55 provisions of Title 37, Chapter 106, Mississippi Code of 1972.

56 (d) "Director" means the individual designated by the
57 Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning to
58 administer the provisions of the various financial assistance
59 programs by promulgating the necessary rules and regulations for
60 their effective administration.

61 (e) "Dual enrolled student" means a student who is
62 enrolled in a community or junior college or state institution of
63 higher learning while enrolled in high school, as defined in
64 Section * * * 37-15-38(1) (a).

65 (f) "Dual credit student" means a student who is
66 enrolled in a community or junior college or state institution of
67 higher learning while enrolled in high school and who is receiving
68 high school and college credit for postsecondary coursework, as
69 defined in Section 37-15-38(1) (b).

70 (g) "Manual" means the procedures manual for the State
71 of Mississippi Dual Enrollment and Accelerated Programs of which
72 the contents of the manual are evaluated and approved by the
73 academic officers of both the Mississippi Association of Community
74 Colleges and the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning.

75 (h) "Program" means the Mississippi Dual
76 Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program.

77 **SECTION 3.** Section 37-109-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
78 amended as follows:



79 37-109-7. (1) (a) For institutions to be eligible for
80 participation in the program, the institution shall adhere to the
81 guidelines prescribed in the procedures manual for the State of
82 Mississippi Dual Enrollment and Accelerated Programs, hereinafter
83 the "manual," and the requirements established by the Mississippi
84 Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board for
85 participating institutions set forth in this subsection.

86 (b) Eligibility for funding shall be incorporated into
87 the manual, which shall outline the specific criteria for initial
88 and continued eligibility for participation for institutions, dual
89 enrollment students and dual credit students, respectively. The
90 academic officers of both the Mississippi Association of Community
91 Colleges and the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher
92 Learning shall evaluate and approve the contents of the manual
93 each year.

94 (c) The board shall administer the Dual Enrollment/Dual
95 Credit Scholarship Program as outlined in the manual. Funds for
96 the program shall be distributed by the board to the providing
97 institution of higher education on behalf of each eligible student
98 after the enrollment verification period. Funds shall not be
99 distributed by the board directly to the student.

100 (d) Participation in the Mississippi Dual
101 Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program is optional for all
102 institutions defined in Section 37-109-5(a). However, in order to



103 qualify for funding, all guidelines in the manual must be followed
104 by each institution.

105 (e) All participating institutions shall be reimbursed
106 at the rate of forty percent (40%) of the average community
107 college credit hour tuition for the current academic year.

108 (f) Participating institutions may elect to exclude
109 specific centers, branch campuses, collegiate academies and middle
110 college's within their governance or purview from participating in
111 the Mississippi Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program.

112 (2) For students to be eligible for participation in the
113 program, the scholarship applicant shall satisfy the student
114 eligibility requirements prescribed in Procedures Manual for the
115 State of Mississippi Dual Enrollment and Accelerated Programs and
116 the requirements established for student eligibility set forth in
117 this subsection:

118 (a) Students * * * who are residents of the State of
119 Mississippi shall be eligible to participate in the program,
120 provided they meet minimum eligibility criteria in the manual.
121 Resident status for the purpose of receiving assistance under this
122 chapter shall be determined in the same manner as resident status
123 for tuition purposes in Sections 37-103-1 through 37-103-29, with
124 the exception of Section 37-103-17;

125 (b) Each eligible student shall be qualified for
126 funding under this chapter for up to * * * seven (7) dual



127 enrollment/dual credit semester credit hours prior to high school
128 graduation;

129 (c) All students who meet the eligibility requirements
130 as outlined in the manual, regardless of participation method,
131 whether online, at a participating institution's campus, at a high
132 school campus, academic or career and technical education (CTE),
133 shall meet the requirements for funding allocation to the
134 participating institution;

135 (d) All Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program
136 student recipients shall be required to participate in an advising
137 component related to the Mississippi Articulation and Transfer
138 Tool (MATT) to ensure their understanding of course
139 transferability * * *;

140 (e) Funds from the Mississippi Dual Enrollment/Dual
141 Credit Scholarship Program shall be used to cover the costs
142 associated with books, course materials, tools, supplies, lab
143 fees, transportation costs and other applicable course fees.

144 * * * Funding for these costs shall transfer from the scholarship
145 fund to the providing institution, as requested by the
146 institution; and

147 (f) Middle college students shall be qualified for the
148 Mississippi Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program
149 funding only if the institution complies with the requirements of
150 the manual.

151 * * *



152 (* * *3) Early college students are not eligible for the
153 Mississippi Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program
154 funding.

155 **SECTION 4.** Section 37-109-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
156 amended as follows:

157 37-109-9. In addition to the criteria established in Section
158 37-109-7, the following program participation criteria must be
159 adhered to:

160 (a) Future enrollment at the providing institution
161 cannot be a requirement for a student to be eligible for Dual
162 Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program funds;

163 * * *

164 (* * *b) The board shall promulgate rules as necessary
165 to implement and administer this section;

166 (* * *c) The board shall develop rules for ensuring
167 that expenses of the scholarship program in each fiscal year do
168 not exceed funding for the program in that fiscal year. For that
169 purpose, and any other provision of this section to the contrary
170 notwithstanding, the board may limit the acceptance of scholarship
171 applications and may limit the award amount of scholarships;

172 (* * *d) If the state appropriation is insufficient to
173 fully fund all students eligible for participation in the program
174 in a given year, those funds shall be prorated to the student's
175 account at the eligible participating institution by an amount to
176 be determined by the board. The student or school district will



177 then be responsible for the remaining balance due for the course
178 taken at the providing institution;

179 (* * *e) The board may conduct its own annual audits
180 of any institution participating in the Mississippi Dual
181 Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program. The board may suspend
182 or revoke an institution's eligibility to receive future funds
183 under the program if it finds that the institution has not
184 complied with the provisions of the manual and the requirements
185 established in Section 37-109-7(1);

186 (* * *f) The board may conduct its own annual audits
187 of students participating in the Mississippi Dual Enrollment/Dual
188 Credit Scholarship Program. The board may suspend or revoke a
189 high school's eligibility to participate in the program if it
190 finds the student or high school has not complied with the
191 provisions of the manual and the requirements established in
192 Section 37-109-7(2);

193 (* * *g) The average community college credit hour
194 tuition amount for the current academic year, as referenced in
195 Section 37-109-7(1)(e), shall be provided annually by the
196 Mississippi Community College Board to the executive director of
197 the board;

198 (* * *h) If a public institution chooses not to
199 participate in the program, or if a public institution in the
200 eligible student's region does not have a particular program the
201 eligible student wants to enroll in but the program is available



202 at another public institution, a student shall have the option of
203 enrolling at a program at another participating public
204 institution;

205 (* * *i) Public school districts or charter schools
206 and institutions participating in the program shall be permitted
207 to enter into agreements under Section 37-15-38, which allow
208 students to enroll and complete additional dual credit or dual
209 enrollment courses, with the goal of increasing the number of
210 students graduating from high school with an associate level
211 degree or other nationally recognized credential. This chapter is
212 intended to provide funding and structure for a minimum
213 standardized dual enrollment/dual credit program across the state;

214 * * *

215 (* * *j) There is established in the State Treasury a
216 special fund to be designated the "Mississippi Dual
217 Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program" into which shall be
218 deposited those funds appropriated by the Legislature, and any
219 other funds that may be made available, for the purpose of
220 implementing the program established under this chapter. Money in
221 the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall not lapse into the
222 General Fund, and interest earned on any amounts deposited into
223 the fund shall be credited to the special fund; and

224 (* * *k) The program requires specific appropriation
225 by the Legislature.



226 **SECTION 5.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
227 and after July 1, 2024.

