

By: Senator(s) Hill

To: Universities and
Colleges; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2233

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-109-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE THAT STUDENTS OF PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOLS SHALL BE ELIGIBLE
3 FOR THE MISSISSIPPI DUAL ENROLLMENT/DUAL CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP
4 PROGRAM; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 37-109-1, 37-109-3, 37-109-7,
5 AND 37-109-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PROVIDE FOR VARIOUS
6 PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE DUAL ENROLLMENT/DUAL CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP
7 PROGRAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED
8 PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-109-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
11 brought forward as follows:

12 37-109-1. Sections 37-109-1 through 37-109-9, Mississippi
13 Code of 1972, shall be known and may be cited as the "Mississippi
14 Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program Act of 2023."

15 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-109-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
16 brought forward as follows:

17 37-109-3. There is hereby created the Mississippi Dual
18 Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program, to be administered by
19 the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board
20 established under Section 37-106-9. The board shall set the dates
21 and deadlines for applying for funding for dual enrollment/dual



22 credit courses of eligible Mississippi high school students under
23 the provisions of Sections 37-109-1 through 37-109-9 and award
24 scholarships to participating institutions for those who meet the
25 eligibility requirements provided herein.

26 **SECTION 3.** Section 37-109-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
27 amended as follows:

28 37-109-5. As used in this chapter, the following terms shall
29 have the meaning ascribed in this section, unless the context
30 clearly requires otherwise:

31 (a) "Institution" means any postsecondary educational
32 institution that is a public state-supported institution of higher
33 learning, a public state-supported community or junior college, or
34 any not-for-profit private institution of higher learning in the
35 state. The term does not include proprietary colleges or
36 universities.

37 (b) "Student" means a high school student in a private
38 school, public school or charter school program in Mississippi.

39 (c) "Board" means the Mississippi Postsecondary
40 Education Financial Assistance Board established in Section
41 37-106-9, which is authorized and empowered to administer the
42 provisions of Title 37, Chapter 106, Mississippi Code of 1972.

43 (d) "Director" means the individual designated by the
44 Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning to
45 administer the provisions of the various financial assistance



46 programs by promulgating the necessary rules and regulations for
47 their effective administration.

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

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

57 (g) "Manual" means the procedures manual for the State
58 of Mississippi Dual Enrollment and Accelerated Programs of which
59 the contents of the manual are evaluated and approved by the
60 academic officers of both the Mississippi Association of Community
61 Colleges and the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning.

62 (h) "Program" means the Mississippi Dual
63 Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program.

64 **SECTION 4.** Section 37-109-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
65 brought forward as follows:

66 37-109-7. (1) (a) For institutions to be eligible for
67 participation in the program, the institution shall adhere to the
68 guidelines prescribed in the procedures manual for the State of
69 Mississippi Dual Enrollment and Accelerated Programs, hereinafter
70 the "manual," and the requirements established by the Mississippi



71 Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board for
72 participating institutions set forth in this subsection.

73 (b) Eligibility for funding shall be incorporated into
74 the manual, which shall outline the specific criteria for initial
75 and continued eligibility for participation for institutions, dual
76 enrollment students and dual credit students, respectively. The
77 academic officers of both the Mississippi Association of Community
78 Colleges and the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher
79 Learning shall evaluate and approve the contents of the manual
80 each year.

81 (c) The board shall administer the Dual Enrollment/Dual
82 Credit Scholarship Program as outlined in the manual. Funds for
83 the program shall be distributed by the board to the providing
84 institution of higher education on behalf of each eligible student
85 after the enrollment verification period. Funds shall not be
86 distributed by the board directly to the student.

87 (d) Participation in the Mississippi Dual
88 Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program is optional for all
89 institutions defined in Section 37-109-5(a). However, in order to
90 qualify for funding, all guidelines in the manual must be followed
91 by each institution.

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



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

99 (2) For students to be eligible for participation in the
100 program, the scholarship applicant shall satisfy the student
101 eligibility requirements prescribed in Procedures Manual for the
102 State of Mississippi Dual Enrollment and Accelerated Programs and
103 the requirements established for student eligibility set forth in
104 this subsection:

105 (a) Students in Grades 11 and 12 who are residents of
106 the State of Mississippi shall be eligible to participate in the
107 program, provided they meet minimum eligibility criteria in the
108 manual. Resident status for the purpose of receiving assistance
109 under this chapter shall be determined in the same manner as
110 resident status for tuition purposes in Sections 37-103-1 through
111 37-103-29, with the exception of Section 37-103-17;

112 (b) Each eligible student shall be qualified for
113 funding under this chapter for up to six (6) dual enrollment/dual
114 credit semester credit hours prior to high school graduation;

115 (c) All students who meet the eligibility requirements
116 as outlined in the manual, regardless of participation method,
117 whether online, at a participating institution's campus, at a high
118 school campus, academic or career and technical education (CTE),



119 shall meet the requirements for funding allocation to the
120 participating institution;

121 (d) All Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program
122 student recipients shall be required to participate in an advising
123 component related to the Mississippi Articulation and Transfer
124 Tool (MATT) to ensure their understanding of course
125 transferability. Credits earned with a final grade of C or above
126 on the eligible student's college transcript in courses offered
127 through the program, whether academic or career and technical,
128 shall transfer to any postsecondary institution in Mississippi;

129 (e) Books, course materials, tools, supplies, lab fees,
130 transportation costs and other applicable course fees shall be the
131 responsibility of the student or high school district; and

132 (f) Middle college students shall be qualified for the
133 Mississippi Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program
134 funding only if the institution complies with the requirements of
135 the manual.

136 (3) To ensure appropriate articulation of college credits to
137 other institutions, only the courses on the "Approved Academic
138 Dual Credit Listing" shall be eligible for funding.

139 (4) Early college students are not eligible for the
140 Mississippi Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program
141 funding.

142 **SECTION 5.** Section 37-109-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
143 brought forward as follows:



144 37-109-9. In addition to the criteria established in Section
145 37-109-7, the following program participation criteria must be
146 adhered to:

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

150 (b) Community college career and technical education
151 (CTE) courses approved in the manual shall be eligible for
152 funding;

153 (c) The board shall promulgate rules as necessary to
154 implement and administer this section;

155 (d) The board shall develop rules for ensuring that
156 expenses of the scholarship program in each fiscal year do not
157 exceed funding for the program in that fiscal year. For that
158 purpose, and any other provision of this section to the contrary
159 notwithstanding, the board may limit the acceptance of scholarship
160 applications and may limit the award amount of scholarships;

161 (e) If the state appropriation is insufficient to fully
162 fund all students eligible for participation in the program in a
163 given year, those funds shall be prorated to the student's account
164 at the eligible participating institution by an amount to be
165 determined by the board. The student or school district will then
166 be responsible for the remaining balance due for the course taken
167 at the providing institution;



168 (f) The board may conduct its own annual audits of any
169 institution participating in the Mississippi Dual Enrollment/Dual
170 Credit Scholarship Program. The board may suspend or revoke an
171 institution's eligibility to receive future funds under the
172 program if it finds that the institution has not complied with the
173 provisions of the manual and the requirements established in
174 Section 37-109-7(1);

175 (g) The board may conduct its own annual audits of
176 students participating in the Mississippi Dual Enrollment/Dual
177 Credit Scholarship Program. The board may suspend or revoke a
178 high school's eligibility to participate in the program if it
179 finds the student or high school has not complied with the
180 provisions of the manual and the requirements established in
181 Section 37-109-7(2);

182 (h) The average community college credit hour tuition
183 amount for the current academic year, as referenced in Section
184 37-109-7(1)(e), shall be provided annually by the Mississippi
185 Community College Board to the executive director of the board;

186 (i) If a public institution chooses not to participate
187 in the program, or if a public institution in the eligible
188 student's region does not have a particular program the eligible
189 student wants to enroll in but the program is available at another
190 public institution, a student shall have the option of enrolling
191 at a program at another participating public institution;



192 (j) Public school districts or charter schools and
193 institutions participating in the program shall be permitted to
194 enter into agreements under Section 37-15-38, which allow students
195 to enroll and complete additional dual credit or dual enrollment
196 courses, with the goal of increasing the number of students
197 graduating from high school with an associate level degree or
198 other nationally recognized credential. This chapter is intended
199 to provide funding and structure for a minimum standardized dual
200 enrollment/dual credit program across the state;

201 (k) To encourage more participation in the program, a
202 final grade of C or above in a three (3) credit hour dual credit
203 course, academic or career and technical, shall be weighted the
204 same as a three (3) or above in an Advanced Placement course final
205 examination in the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System.
206 Only courses included in the approved dual credit course list
207 referenced in the manual shall be weighted in the model; and

208 (l) There is established in the State Treasury a
209 special fund to be designated the "Mississippi Dual
210 Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program" into which shall be
211 deposited those funds appropriated by the Legislature, and any
212 other funds that may be made available, for the purpose of
213 implementing the program established under this chapter. Money in
214 the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall not lapse into the
215 General Fund, and interest earned on any amounts deposited into
216 the fund shall be credited to the special fund;



217 (m) The program requires specific appropriation by the
218 Legislature.

219 **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
220 and after July 1, 2024.

