

By: Senator(s) Hickman, Boyd, Simmons
(12th), Butler, Simmons (13th)

To: Accountability,
Efficiency, Transparency;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2244

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 PROVIDE THAT FOSTER CARE CHILDREN AND CHILDREN WHO
17 WERE PREVIOUSLY PLACED IN THE LEGAL CUSTODY OF THE MISSISSIPPI
18 DEPARTMENT OF CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES AND THEIR FAMILY,
19 INCLUDING THEIR BIOLOGICAL PARENTS AND SIBLINGS, THEIR FOSTER
20 PARENTS AND SIBLINGS, THEIR ADOPTED PARENTS AND SIBLINGS, THEIR
21 GUARDIANS OR ANY OTHER MEMBER OF THEIR DIRECT HOUSEHOLD, AS
22 APPLICABLE, SHALL BE ALLOWED FREE ADMISSION TO ANY PUBLICLY FUNDED
23 MUSEUM IN THIS STATE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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



27 37-99-3. (1) As used in this section, the following terms
28 shall have the meaning ascribed in this subsection, unless context
29 of use clearly requires otherwise:

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

32 (b) "Eligible child" means:

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

60 55-3-87. (1) As used in this section, the following terms
61 shall have the meaning ascribed in this subsection, unless context
62 of use clearly requires otherwise:

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

65 (b) "Eligible child" means:

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

97 **SECTION 3.** (1) As used in this section, the following terms
98 shall have the meaning ascribed in this subsection, unless context
99 of use clearly requires otherwise:



100 (a) "Department" means the Mississippi Department of
101 Child Protection Services.

102 (b) "Eligible child" means:

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

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

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

119 (c) "Museum" means a public agency or institution
120 located in this state and organized on a permanent basis for
121 essentially educational or aesthetic purposes, which utilizes a
122 professional staff, owns or utilizes tangible objects, cares for
123 them, and exhibits them to the public on a regular basis.



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

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

134 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
135 and after July 1, 2024.

