

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

To: Accountability,  
Efficiency, Transparency;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2244  
(As Passed the Senate)

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 foster parent" means an individual  
66 licensed by the Mississippi Department of Child Protection  
67 Services to operate a foster home to provide residential care to a  
68 child in the department's custody.

69 (c) "Eligible child agency" means a child-placing  
70 agency or a residential child-caring agency licensed by the  
71 Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services as set forth  
72 in Section 43-15-107.

73 (d) "State Park" shall mean any land operated by the  
74 Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks for the  
75 purpose of providing outdoor recreational activities and enjoyment



76 for the citizens of the State of Mississippi and for the purpose  
77 of attracting visitors to the state.

78 (2) An eligible foster parent, including his or her spouse,  
79 foster children, biological children or any other member of his or  
80 her direct household, or the staff of an eligible child agency  
81 together with the children placed with the agency, as applicable,  
82 shall be allowed free admission to any state park in this state  
83 upon showing the appropriate license/ certificate issued by the  
84 department.

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

88 (a) "Department" means the Mississippi Department of  
89 Child Protection Services.

90 (b) "Eligible foster parent" means an individual  
91 licensed by the Mississippi Department of Child Protection  
92 Services to operate a foster home to provide residential care to a  
93 child in the department's custody.

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

99 (d) "Eligible child agency" means a child-placing  
100 agency or a residential child-caring agency licensed by the



101 Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services as set forth  
102 in Section 43-15-107.

103 (2) An eligible foster parent, including his or her spouse,  
104 foster children, biological children or any other member of his or  
105 her direct household, or the staff of an eligible child agency  
106 together with the children placed with the agency, as applicable,  
107 shall be allowed free admission to any state park in this state  
108 upon showing the appropriate license/ certificate issued by the  
109 department.

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

