

**Adopted
AMENDMENT NO 1 TO COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED
TO**

House Bill No. 765

BY: Senator(s) Boyd, DeBar

1 **AMEND** after line 398 by inserting the following section and
2 **renumbering the subsequent sections accordingly:**

3 **SECTION *.** Section 37-106-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
4 brought forward as follows:

5 37-106-29. (1) There is established the Mississippi
6 Resident Tuition Assistance Grant Program for college or
7 university freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors to be
8 administered by the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial
9 Assistance Board established under Section 37-106-9, Mississippi
10 Code of 1972, which shall set the dates and deadlines for applying
11 for an award under this section. The board shall establish such
12 rules and regulations as it deems necessary and proper to carry
13 out the purposes and intent of this section.



14 (2) The board shall approve grants to full-time freshmen,
15 sophomore, junior and senior Mississippi residents who meet the
16 general requirements for student eligibility as provided in
17 subsection (4) of this section.

18 (3) Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grants shall be
19 for Mississippi resident students from any Mississippi family
20 whose prior year adjusted gross income (AGI) exceeds the maximum
21 allowed to qualify for full Pell Grant eligibility and
22 campus-based federal aid. Those Mississippi students qualifying
23 for less than the full Pell Grant award shall receive a
24 Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grant in an amount not to
25 exceed the maximum Pell Grant allowable for that individual
26 student. The award shall be applied to tuition, rooms and meals,
27 books, materials and fees not to exceed One Thousand Dollars
28 (\$1,000.00) for junior and senior students attending state
29 institutions of higher learning in Mississippi or four-year
30 regionally accredited, state-approved, nonprofit colleges and
31 universities in Mississippi, and Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00)
32 for freshmen and sophomores attending state institutions of higher
33 learning or public community or junior colleges in Mississippi, or
34 regionally accredited, state-approved, nonprofit two-year or
35 four-year colleges in Mississippi, which will be prorated per
36 term, semester or quarter of the academic year for costs of
37 attendance, calculated according to the formula specified in
38 subsection (8) of this section.



39 (4) The general requirements for initial eligibility of
40 students for Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grants
41 consist of the following:

42 (a) Member of a Mississippi family whose prior year
43 adjusted gross income (AGI) exceeds the maximum allowed to qualify
44 for Pell Grant eligibility and campus-based federal aid.

45 (b) Acceptance for enrollment at any state institution
46 of higher learning or public community or junior college located
47 in Mississippi, or any regionally accredited, state-approved,
48 nonprofit two-year or four-year college or university located in
49 Mississippi and approved by the board.

50 (c) Completion of a secondary education as follows:

51 (i) Graduation from high school verified by the
52 institution before disbursement of award with a minimum grade
53 point average of 2.5 calculated on a 4.0 scale after seven (7)
54 semesters as certified by the high school counselor or other
55 authorized school official on the application; or

56 (ii) Attendance at a home education program during
57 grade levels 9 through 12; or

58 (iii) Satisfactory completion of the High School
59 Equivalency Diploma; or

60 (iv) Successful completion of the International
61 Baccalaureate Program.

62 (d) A minimum score of fifteen (15) on the ACT test
63 except that any student entering a vocational or technical program



64 of study, or who has satisfactorily completed the High School
65 Equivalency Diploma Test and attends a community or junior college
66 will not be required to have a test score under the ACT unless a
67 student enrolls in courses of academic study.

68 (e) Any student currently enrolled in any qualified
69 institution shall have to only meet the same requirements as
70 students who are applying for a renewal award.

71 (5) By accepting a Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance
72 Grant, the student is attesting to the accuracy, completeness and
73 correctness of information provided to demonstrate the student's
74 eligibility. Falsification of such information shall result in
75 the denial of any pending grant and revocation of any award
76 currently held to the extent that no further payments shall be
77 made. Any student knowingly making false statements in order to
78 receive a grant shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable, upon
79 conviction thereof, by a fine of up to Ten Thousand Dollars
80 (\$10,000.00), a prison sentence of up to one (1) year in the
81 county jail, or both, and shall be required to return all
82 Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grants wrongfully
83 obtained.

84 (6) Eligibility for renewal of Mississippi Resident Tuition
85 Assistance Grants shall be evaluated at the end of each semester,
86 or term, of each academic year. As a condition for renewal, a
87 student shall:



88 (a) Make steady academic progress toward a certificate
89 or degree, as outlined in the school Satisfactory Academic
90 Progress Standards and certified by the institution's registrar.

91 (b) Maintain continuous enrollment for not less than
92 two (2) semesters or three (3) quarters in each successive
93 academic year, unless granted an exception for cause by the
94 administering board; examples of cause may include student
95 participation in a cooperative program, internship program or
96 foreign study program. If a student fails to maintain continuous
97 enrollment, and is not granted an exception for cause by the
98 administering board, the student is ineligible to receive the
99 Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grant during the following
100 semester or trimester or term of the regular academic year.

101 (c) Have a cumulative grade point average of at least
102 2.50 calculated on a 4.0 scale at the end of each semester or
103 trimester or term.

104 (7) Each student, each year, must complete a Free
105 Application for Federal Student Aid form or a Statement of
106 Certification as designed by the administering board to determine
107 his/her eligibility for a Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance
108 Grant.

109 (8) (a) The amount of the Mississippi Resident Tuition
110 Assistance Grant awarded to any one (1) student, up to the maximum
111 amount provided in subsection (3) of this section, shall be the
112 difference of the student's cost of attendance at his accredited



113 college of choice and the amount of federal aid such student may
114 receive, not to supplant but to supplement the amount of any
115 federal aid awarded to the student. Cost of attendance is the
116 tuition and fees of the applicable institution plus an allowance
117 for room and meals and books and materials.

118 (b) Payment of the Mississippi Resident Tuition
119 Assistance Grant shall be made payable to the recipient and the
120 educational institution and mailed directly to the institution, to
121 be applied first to tuition.

122 (9) In order for an institution to remain eligible for its
123 students to participate in the Mississippi Resident Tuition
124 Assistance Grant Program, the institution shall comply with the
125 following requirements:

126 (a) A complete and accurate roster of the eligibility
127 status of each awarded student shall be made to the board for each
128 term, semester or quarter of the academic year the student
129 receives a Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grant.

130 (b) The institution is required to make refunds to the
131 Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grant Fund for any funds
132 which have not been disbursed to the recipient, in the case of
133 students who have received a grant but who terminate enrollment
134 during the academic term, semester or quarter of the academic year
135 if an institution's refund policies permit a student to receive a
136 refund in such instance. The recipient shall be responsible for



137 the refund of any funds which have been disbursed by the
138 institution in such instance.

139 (c) If a student drops below full-time status but does
140 not terminate all enrollment during the term, semester or quarter
141 of the academic year no refund will be required for that term.
142 However, that student is ineligible to receive the Mississippi
143 Resident Tuition Assistance Grant during the following term,
144 semester or quarter of the regular academic year.

145 (d) The board may conduct its own annual audits of any
146 institution participating in the Mississippi Resident Tuition
147 Assistance Grant Program. The board may suspend or revoke an
148 institution's eligibility to receive future monies under the
149 program if it finds that the institution has not complied with the
150 provisions of this section. In determining a student's initial
151 eligibility, the number of prior semesters enrolled will not be
152 counted against the student.

153 (10) No student may receive a Mississippi Resident Tuition
154 Assistance Grant for more than the equivalent semesters or
155 quarters required to complete one (1) baccalaureate degree or one
156 (1) certificate or associate degree program per institution.

157 (11) No student receiving a Mississippi Eminent Scholars
158 Grant as provided in Section 37-106-31 shall be eligible to
159 receive the Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grant pursuant
160 to this section unless he is eligible for such award after the
161 Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant has been considered by the



162 board when conducting an assessment of the financial resources
163 available to the student. In no case shall any student receive
164 any combination of student financial aid that would exceed the
165 cost of attendance, as defined in subsection (8)(a).

166 For purposes of this section, certificated shall mean, but
167 not be limited to, all postsecondary vocational programs in
168 eligible institutions approved by the board.

169 **Further, amend the title to conform.**

