

By: Representative Scoggin

To: Universities and
Colleges; Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 814

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-106-75, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE SATISFACTION OF CORE CURRICULUM
3 REQUIREMENTS BE CERTIFIED AND SUBMITTED BY A HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR
4 OR OTHER SCHOOL OFFICIALS; TO REVISE THE DEFINITION OF "FAMILY"
5 AND ADJUST THE INCOME AMOUNT ALLOWABLE TO CERTAIN FAMILIES FOR
6 ELIGIBILITY OF RECEIPT OF PELL GRANT FUNDS; AND FOR RELATED
7 PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-106-75, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10 amended as follows:

11 37-106-75. (1) The Legislature hereby establishes the
12 Higher Education Legislative Plan Grant Program.

13 (2) For purposes of this section:

14 (a) "Institution of higher education" shall mean any
15 state institution of higher learning or public community or junior
16 college, or any regionally accredited, state-approved, nonprofit
17 two-year or four-year college or university located in the State
18 of Mississippi approved by the board.

19 (b) "Tuition" shall mean the semester or trimester or
20 term charges and all required fees imposed by an institution of



21 higher education as a condition of enrollment by all students.
22 However, for a two-year nonpublic institution of higher education
23 defined in paragraph (a), the tuition payments shall not exceed
24 the average charges and fees required by all of the two-year
25 public institutions of higher education defined in paragraph (a),
26 and for a four-year nonpublic institution of higher education
27 defined in paragraph (a), the tuition payments shall not exceed
28 the average charges and fees required by all of the four-year
29 public institutions of higher education defined in paragraph (a).

30 (3) Subject to the availability of funds, the state may pay
31 the tuition of students who enroll at any state institution of
32 higher education to pursue an academic undergraduate degree who
33 apply for the assistance under the program and who meet all of the
34 following qualifications:

35 (a) Resident of the State of Mississippi. Resident
36 status for the purpose of receiving assistance under this chapter
37 shall be determined in the same manner as resident status for
38 tuition purposes in Sections 37-103-1 through 37-103-29, with the
39 exception of Section 37-103-17;

40 (b) Graduate from high school within the two (2) years
41 preceding the application with a minimum cumulative grade point
42 average of 2.5 calculated on a 4.0 scale;

43 * * *



44 (* * *c) Have a composite score on the American
45 College Test of at least twenty (20) on the 1989 version or an
46 equivalent concordant value on an enhanced version of such test;

47 (e) Have no criminal record, except for misdemeanor
48 traffic violations; and

49 (f) Be in financial need.

50 (4) * * * The state * * * shall make awards to students who
51 enroll at any state institution of higher education to pursue an
52 academic undergraduate degree or associate degree who apply for
53 assistance under the program and who meet the qualifications * * *
54 of subsection (3) * * *.

55 (5) To maintain continued state payment of tuition, once
56 enrolled in an institution of higher education, a student shall
57 meet all of the following requirements:

58 (a) Make steady academic progress toward a degree,
59 earning not less than the minimum number of hours of credit
60 required for full-time standing in each academic period requiring
61 such enrollment;

62 (b) Maintain continuous enrollment for not less than
63 two (2) semesters or three (3) quarters in each successive
64 academic year, unless granted an exception for cause by the board;

65 (c) Have a cumulative grade point average of at least
66 2.5 calculated on a 4.0 scale at the end of the first academic
67 year and thereafter maintain such a cumulative grade point average
68 as evaluated at the end of each academic year;



(d) Have no criminal record, except for misdemeanor traffic violations; and

(e) Be in financial need.

(6) The provisions of this section shall be administered by the board. The board may promulgate rules for all matters necessary for the implementation of this section. By rule, the board shall provide for:

(a) A mechanism for informing all students of the availability of the assistance provided under this section early enough in their schooling that a salutary motivational effect is possible;

(b) Applications, forms, financial audit procedures, eligibility and other program audit procedures and other matters related to efficient operation;

* * *

(7) An applicant shall be found to be in financial need if:

(a) The family * * * size is three (3) or less and the annual adjusted gross income of the family is less than or equal to Forty-two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$42,500.00); or

(b) The family has an annual adjusted gross income of less than or equal to Forty-two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$42,500.00) plus Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for each additional * * * family member.

The annual adjusted gross income of the family and the family size/number in family shall be verified by completion of the Free



94 Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the completion of
95 the verification process if the applicant is selected for it.

96 * * *

97 (8) No student shall receive a grant under this section in
98 an amount greater than the tuition charged by the school. The
99 student must * * * be deemed eligible for a federal Pell grant
100 prior to receiving state funds.

101 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
102 and after July 1, 2025.

