

By: Representative Currie

To: Universities and
Colleges

HOUSE BILL NO. 1179

1 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT STATE SUPPORTED POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL
2 INSTITUTIONS UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE
3 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING OR THE MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY
4 COLLEGE BOARD FROM SOLICITING PLEDGES OR EXPENDING ANY FUNDS,
5 REGARDLESS OF THE SOURCES FROM WHICH SUCH FUNDS ARE DERIVED, FOR
6 THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING OR IMPLEMENTING DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND
7 INCLUSION INITIATIVES FOR STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE
8 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** State-supported postsecondary educational
11 institutions under the purview of the Board of Trustees of State
12 Institutions of Higher Learning or the Mississippi Community
13 College Board shall not solicit pledges, except pledges to uphold
14 general and federal law, the United States Constitution and the
15 Mississippi Constitution of 1890, or statements or commitments for
16 or against certain viewpoints about diversity, equity and
17 inclusion, Critical Race Theory rhetoric or political identity or
18 ideology, as part of any hiring, promotion, disciplinary, or
19 evaluation process, including:



20 (a) As part of applications for employment, promotion
21 and tenure applications, conditions of employment, job
22 qualifications, job descriptions or performance evaluations; or

23 (b) As part of any admissions or student disciplinary
24 process, including as part of any admissions applications or
25 orientations.

26 This section applies to all students and employees at the
27 university, including the president of the university.

28 **SECTION 2.** (1) No state-supported postsecondary educational
29 institution under the purview of the Board of Trustees of State
30 Institutions of Higher Learning or the Mississippi Community
31 College Board shall expend any funds, regardless of the sources
32 from which such funds are derived, to purchase membership in, or
33 goods or services from any organization that discriminates on the
34 basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or
35 religion.

36 (2) No state-supported postsecondary educational institution
37 under the purview of the Board of Trustees of State Institutions
38 of Higher Learning or the Mississippi Community College Board
39 shall expend any funds, regardless of the sources from which such
40 funds are derived, to promote, support, or maintain any programs
41 or campus activities with individuals who are enrolled as members
42 of the student body or individuals who are employed by the
43 postsecondary educational institution, that:



44 (a) Promote discrimination on the basis of race, color,
45 national origin, or sex under this section to subject any student
46 or employee to training or instruction that espouses, promotes,
47 advances, inculcates or compels such student or employee to
48 believe any of the following concepts:

49 1. Members of one race, color, national
50 origin, or sex are morally superior to members of another race,
51 color, national origin or sex;

52 2. A person, by virtue of his or her race,
53 color, national origin, or sex, is inherently racist, sexist or
54 oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously;

55 3. A person's moral character or status as
56 either privileged or oppressed is necessarily determined by his or
57 her race, color, national origin or sex;

58 4. Members of one race, color, national
59 origin, or sex cannot and should not attempt to treat others
60 without respect to race, color, national origin or sex;

61 5. A person, by virtue of his or her race,
62 color, national origin, or sex, bears responsibility for, or
63 should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment
64 because of, actions committed in the past by other members of the
65 same race, color, national origin or sex;

66 6. A person, by virtue of his or her race,
67 color, national origin, or sex, should be discriminated against or



68 receive adverse treatment to achieve diversity, equity or
69 inclusion;

70 7. A person, by virtue of his or her race,
71 color, sex, or national origin, bears personal responsibility for
72 and must feel guilt, anguish, or other forms of psychological
73 distress because of actions, in which the person played no part,
74 committed in the past by other members of the same race, color,
75 national origin or sex; or

76 8. Such virtues as merit, excellence, hard
77 work, fairness, neutrality, objectivity, and racial colorblindness
78 are racist or sexist, or were created by members of a particular
79 race, color, national origin, or sex to oppress members of another
80 race, color, national origin or sex;

81 (b) Advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion;

82 (c) Promote or engage in political or social activism;

83 or

84 (d) Include or espouse, as government speech or
85 expressive activity of the state-supported postsecondary
86 educational institution speaking or acting on the postsecondary
87 educational institution behalf, preferential treatment or special
88 benefits to individuals on the basis of race, color, national
89 origin, sex, disability or religion.

90 **SECTION 3.** (1) Each state-supported postsecondary
91 educational institution shall adopt a policy detailing students'



92 rights and responsibilities regarding expressive activities at the
93 institution. The policy must:

94 (a) Demonstrate a commitment to intellectual freedom
95 and viewpoint diversity;

96 (b) Prohibit:

97 (i) The funding, promotion, sponsorship, or
98 support of:

99 1. Any office of diversity, equity and
100 inclusion; and

101 2. Any office that funds, promotes, sponsors,
102 or supports an initiative or formulation of diversity, equity and
103 inclusion beyond what is necessary to uphold the equal protection
104 of the laws under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States
105 Constitution; and

106 (ii) The endorsement or dissuasion of, or
107 interference with, any lifestyle, race, sex, religion or culture.

108 (2) For the purpose of this section the term "expressive
109 activities" means any speech or expressive conduct protected by
110 the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or by
111 Article 3, Section 13, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, and
112 includes assemblies, protests, speeches, the distribution of
113 written material, the carrying of signs, the circulation of
114 petitions and published or unpublished faculty research, lectures,
115 writings and commentary. The term does not include commercial
116 speech.



117 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
118 and after July 1, 2025.

