

By: Senator(s) Boyd, Tate

To: Universities and  
Colleges; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2526  
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-103-25, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO ALLOW NONRESIDENT STUDENTS TO FULLY PARTICIPATE IN THE YELLOW  
3 RIBBON PROGRAM AND RECEIVE FUNDS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-103-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
6 amended as follows:

7 37-103-25. (1) The Board of Trustees of State Institutions  
8 of Higher Learning and the boards of trustees of the community  
9 colleges and junior colleges are authorized to prescribe the  
10 amount of tuition and fees to be paid by students attending the  
11 several state-supported institutions of higher learning and  
12 community colleges and junior colleges of the State of  
13 Mississippi.

14 (2) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection and  
15 subsections (3) and (4) of this section, the total tuition to be  
16 paid by residents of other states shall not be less than the  
17 average cost per student from appropriated funds. However, the  
18 tuition to be paid by a resident of another state shall be equal



to the tuition amount established under subsection (1) of this section if:

(a) \* \* \* The nonresident is a "covered individual" under Section 702 of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014. A nonresident veteran, as defined by Title 38 of the United States Code or a person entitled to education benefits under Title 38 of the United States Code who is not a covered individual under Section 702 of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014, but qualifies for Yellow Ribbon Program funds shall be charged nonresident tuition provided the state institution of higher learning and community or junior college participates in the Yellow Ribbon Program and provides a scholarship (including Yellow Ribbon Program funds) that results in the nonresident veteran or person entitled to education benefits under Title 38 paying tuition equal to the amount established under subsection (1) of this section. All other nonresident veterans, as defined by Title 38 of the United States Code and other persons entitled to education benefits under Title 38, except those enrolled in a professional school or college, shall be charged tuition equal to the amount established under subsection (1) of this section. This paragraph (a) shall be administered and interpreted in the manner necessary to obtain or retain approval of courses of education by the Secretary of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and in a manner necessary to allow a nonresident veteran or a person entitled to



44 education benefits under Title 38 of the United States Code and  
45 state institutions of higher learning and community and junior  
46 colleges to fully participate and receive Yellow Ribbon Program  
47 funds;

48 (b) The nonresident student is an evacuee of an area  
49 affected by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita. This waiver  
50 shall be applicable to the 2005-2006 school year only \* \* \*; and

51 (c) The nonresident student's out-of-state tuition was  
52 waived according to subsection (3) or (4) of this section.

53 (3) The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher  
54 Learning may, in its discretion, consider and grant requests to  
55 approve institution specific policies permitting the waiver of  
56 out-of-state tuition when such an official request is made by the  
57 president or chancellor of the institution and when such request  
58 is determined by the board to be fiscally responsible and in  
59 accordance with the educational mission of the requesting  
60 institution.

61 (4) The board of trustees of any community college or junior  
62 college may develop and implement a policy for waiving  
63 out-of-state tuition for the college if the policy is determined  
64 by the board to be in accordance with the educational mission of  
65 the college and if a local industry or business or a state agency  
66 agrees to reimburse the college for the entire amount of the  
67 out-of-state tuition that will be waived under the policy. State  
68 funds shall be allocated and spent only on students who reside



69 within the State of Mississippi. However, associate degree  
70 nursing students who reside outside the State of Mississippi may  
71 be counted for pay purposes.

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

