

By: Senator(s) Hopson, Polk, Frazier,
Parker, Robinson, Williams

To: Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 3012

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE AID AND SUPPORT OF THE
2 PUBLIC COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
3 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
6 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State
7 General Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the operation and
8 support of the public community and junior colleges for the fiscal
9 year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....
10\$ 227,438,680.00.

11 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
12 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State
13 Treasury to the credit of the special funds specified herein to
14 the Mississippi Community College Board for the operation and
15 support of the public community and junior colleges for the fiscal
16 year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.....
17\$ 65,785,786.00.



SECTION 3. Of the funds appropriated in Section 2 of this act, Sixty-four Million Seven Hundred Eighty-five Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-six Dollars (\$64,785,786.00) shall be derived from funds in the Education Enhancement Fund deposited pursuant to Sections 27-65-75 and 27-67-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, not otherwise appropriated, for the operation and support of public community and junior colleges.

SECTION 4. The funds provided in this section shall be allocated for the aid and support of the public and community junior colleges through the community college support funding formula and shall be apportioned in accordance with the following assigned weights:

	FTE
<u>Formula Section</u>	<u>Formula</u>
(a) Aid to Colleges:	
Base	15% prior year appropriation
Academic	1.0
Technical	1.0
(b) Career	1.0
(c) Associate Degree	
Nursing	1.19
(d) Associate Degree	
Allied Health	1.19



42 Academic, Technical, Career, Associate Degree Nursing and
43 Associate Degree Allied Health funds shall be disbursed on the
44 basis of prior year full-time equivalency (FTE) of hours generated
45 during the summer, fall and spring semesters for each public
46 community and junior college student actually enrolled and in
47 attendance the last day of the sixth week of each semester, or its
48 equivalent, counting only students who reside within the State of
49 Mississippi. However, associate degree nursing students who
50 reside outside the State of Mississippi may be counted for pay
51 purposes.

52 The Director of the Mississippi Community College Board, or
53 his designee, shall audit each public community and junior college
54 and shall determine who shall be counted in each college and shall
55 certify the number to the Mississippi Community College Board.

56 If, pending determination of the enrollment of students at
57 the public community and junior colleges entitled to participate
58 in this appropriation, as provided for in this section, the
59 Mississippi Community College Board shall find and determine that
60 any such public or community junior college does not have
61 sufficient funds on hand for payment of the necessary expenses of
62 its operation for the period commencing July 1, 2025, until
63 distribution of the funds appropriated hereby, then, in that
64 event, the Mississippi Community College Board is expressly
65 authorized to make an advance to any such public community or
66 junior college or colleges not having sufficient operating funds



67 for such period from the funds appropriated hereby; provided,
68 however, that the amount of any such advance to any one (1) public
69 community or junior college shall not exceed thirty-three percent
70 (33%) of the amount of state-appropriated funds received by such
71 public community or junior college during the preceding fiscal
72 year; and provided, further, that the amount of any such advance
73 shall be deducted from the pro rata part of the funds appropriated
74 hereby accruing to said public community or junior college when
75 enrollment has been ascertained and distribution of funds is made.

76 (a) Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this act, an
77 amount not to exceed One Hundred Seventy-nine Million Nine Hundred
78 Eighty-three Thousand Two Hundred Four Dollars (\$179,983,204.00)
79 is authorized for the aid and support of the public community
80 colleges to be distributed through the community college support
81 funding formula.

82 (b) Of the funds provided in Section 3 of this act,
83 Fifty-one Million Eight Hundred Eighty-four Thousand Nine Hundred
84 Forty-six Dollars (\$51,884,946.00), or so much as may be
85 necessary, shall be derived out of any money in the State Treasury
86 to the credit of the Education Enhancement Fund and deposited
87 pursuant to Sections 27-65-75 and 27-67-31, Mississippi Code of
88 1972. These funds are authorized for the aid and support of the
89 public community colleges to be distributed through the community
90 college support funding formula.



91 **SECTION 5.** The following public community and junior
92 colleges which qualify shall participate in the funds provided
93 herein:

94 Coahoma Community College, Copiah-Lincoln Community College,
95 East Central Community College, East Mississippi Community
96 College, Hinds Community College, Holmes Community College,
97 Itawamba Community College, Jones County Junior College, Meridian
98 Community College, Mississippi Delta Community College,
99 Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Northeast Mississippi
100 Community College, Northwest Mississippi Community College, Pearl
101 River Community College, and Southwest Mississippi Community
102 College.

103 **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this
104 act, an amount not to exceed Thirty Million Five Hundred
105 Ninety-four Thousand Three Hundred Thirty-six Dollars
106 (\$30,594,336.00) is authorized for the aid of the public community
107 and junior colleges to fund life and health insurance for all
108 employees of the public community and junior colleges.

109 The funds allocated in this section shall only be used to
110 participate in the State and School Employees' Life and Health
111 Insurance Plan and any funds appropriated in this section for this
112 purpose, which are not expended during the fiscal year shall be
113 carried forward for the same purposes during the next succeeding
114 fiscal year.



115 **SECTION 7.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2 of this
116 act, One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall be derived out of
117 any money in the State Treasury to the credit of the Insurance
118 Carryover Fund No. 3295, for the purpose of fully funding life and
119 health insurance through the State and School Employees' Life and
120 Health Insurance Plan for all qualified community and junior
121 college employees.

122 **SECTION 8.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this
123 act, an amount not to exceed Six Million Seven Hundred Fifty
124 Thousand Dollars (\$6,750,000.00) shall be used for the purpose of
125 Workforce and Economic Development Support, including the
126 operation of the Workforce Development Centers and Advanced
127 Training Centers, providing start-up costs for new career and
128 technical programs, and providing the necessary funding to replace
129 outdated and obsolete equipment for existing career and technical
130 programs at each of the public community and junior colleges.

131 **SECTION 9.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this
132 act, One Hundred Seventy-nine Thousand Fifty Dollars (\$179,050.00)
133 shall be used for the purpose of defraying the cost of Sign
134 Language Interpreter Training at the public community and junior
135 colleges.

136 **SECTION 10.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 and
137 provided in Section 2 of this act, Ten Million Dollars
138 (\$10,000,000.00) shall be used by the Mississippi Community
139 College Board for the purpose of defraying the cost of the



Education Technology Program at the public community and junior colleges and the Mississippi Community College Board. Seven Million Ninety-nine Thousand One Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$7,099,160.00) shall be derived from Section 1 of this act, and Two Million Nine Hundred Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Dollars (\$2,900,840.00) shall be derived from Section 3 of this act out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of the Education Enhancement Fund and deposited pursuant to Sections 27-65-75 and 27-67-31, Mississippi Code of 1972.

SECTION 11. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this act, Two Million Five Hundred Fifty-six Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-two Dollars (\$2,556,922.00) shall be used for the purpose of defraying the cost of the Associate Degree Nursing and Allied Health Programs.

SECTION 12. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this act, Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) shall be used for the purpose of continuing the dropout recovery initiative based on a successful program administered through the adult basic education program with the Mississippi Community College Board. These funds shall also be used for the purpose of enrolling low-skill adults in career pathways that combine high school equivalency, skills training and workforce credentials in an intensive program that produces adults who can compete for jobs.

Of the funds provided in this section, one-half (1/2) shall be allocated equally and the remaining one-half (1/2) shall be



allocated on the basis of the prior year headcount enrollment in Adult Education, MIBEST or other career pathway programs.

The public community and junior colleges shall prepare and make available to the Legislature and the Legislative Budget Office a comprehensive report on the number of dropouts that have enrolled in a High School Equivalency and/or career program for each community and junior college during Fiscal Year 2025 on, or before, August 1, 2026.

SECTION 13. Of the funds provided in Section 3 of this act, Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00), or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be derived out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of the Education Enhancement Fund and deposited pursuant to Sections 27-65-75 and 27-67-31, Mississippi Code of 1972. These funds shall be used for the Career and Technical Advantage Program which will provide start-up costs for new career and technical programs, expansion of existing career and technical programs, and infrastructure for career and technical program equipment, lab upgrades, and renovations to sustain the programs at public community colleges. Fifteen percent (15%) of the funds appropriated in this section shall be distributed evenly to each community college. The remaining eighty-five percent (85%) of the funds shall be distributed on the basis of prior year career and technical full-time equivalency (FTE) hours generated during the summer, fall, and spring semesters for each public community college.



SECTION 14. In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized, this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted performance measures provided below:

	FY2026
<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
Instruction	
Number of Total Degrees Awarded per 100	
FTE Enrollment	34.40
Number of Associate Degrees Awarded per	
100 FTE Enrollment	17.92
Number of Associate of Applied Science	
Degrees Awarded per 100 FTE Enrollment	10.62
Number of Certificates Awarded per 100	
FTE Enrollment	14.59
Percent of First-Time Entering,	
Part-Time Degree- Seeking Students	
(Fall) who Earned 24 Credit Hours by the	
End of Year Two	17.81
Percent of First-Time Entering,	
Full-Time Degree-Seeking Students (Fall)	
who Earned 42 Credit Hours by the End	



215	of Year Two	49.09
216	Percent of Associate Degree Nursing and	
217	Practical Nursing Licensure Exam Pass	
218	Rates	94.44
219	Percent of Total Student Success, Which	
220	Includes Graduates, Transfers, and	
221	Retention (Those Still Enrolled)	69.28
222	Percent of Graduates	38.68
223	Percent of Transfers	19.31
224	Percent of Retention	8.56
225	Percent of Students Enrolled in Career/	
226	Technical and Health Science Graduates	23.50
227	Percent of In-State Job Placements of	
228	Career/ Technical and Health Science	
229	Graduates	90.86
230	Number of High School Equivalencies Awarded	3,836
231	A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets	
232	set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the	
233	agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget	
234	Committee for Fiscal Year 2027.	

235 **SECTION 15.** It is the intention of the Legislature that none
236 of the General Funds appropriated herein shall be expended for the
237 purpose of paying salaries, wages, and fringe benefits of any
238 public community and junior college employee who is serving as a
239 member of the State of Mississippi Legislature.



240 **SECTION 16.** A Mississippi Prepaid Affordable College Tuition
241 (MPACT) program beneficiary shall be considered a Mississippi
242 resident for the purposes of participating in this appropriation
243 regardless of the beneficiary's residence on the date of
244 enrollment, as set out in Section 37-155-5(d)(iii), Mississippi
245 Code of 1972.

246 **SECTION 17.** It is the intention of the Legislature that none
247 of the funds provided herein shall be used to pay certain
248 utilities for state-furnished housing for any employees. Such
249 utilities shall include electricity, natural gas, butane, propane,
250 cable and phone services. Where actual cost cannot be determined,
251 the agency shall be required to provide meters to be in compliance
252 with legislative intent. Such state-furnished housing shall
253 include single-family and multifamily residences but shall not
254 include any dormitory residences. Allowances for such utilities
255 shall be prohibited.

256 **SECTION 18.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
257 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
258 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
259 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
260 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
261 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
262 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
263 made without competitive bids.



264 **SECTION 19.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
265 support of the community and junior colleges shall maintain
266 complete accounting and personnel records related to the
267 expenditure of all funds appropriated under this act and that such
268 records shall be in the same format and level of detail as
269 maintained for Fiscal Year 2025. It is further the intention of
270 the Legislature that the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year
271 2027 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee
272 in a format and level of detail comparable to the format and level
273 of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2026 budget request
274 process.

275 **SECTION 20.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
276 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with
277 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency
278 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their
279 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally
280 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for
281 actions contrary to this provision.

282 **SECTION 21.** The funds disbursed under the provisions of this
283 act shall be accounted for through the Mississippi Community
284 College Board. No part of the amount herein appropriated shall be
285 used by the Mississippi Community College Board for administrative
286 or other purposes except in the manner and to the extent
287 authorized in this act making an appropriation for the expenses of
288 the Mississippi Community College Board.



289 **SECTION 22.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
290 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
291 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
292 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
293 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
294 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

295 **SECTION 23.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
296 and after July 1, 2025, and shall stand repealed from and after
297 June 30, 2025.

