

**Adopted
AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

House Bill No. 1434

BY: Representatives McCarty, Roberson

**Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting
in lieu thereof the following:**

18 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known and may be cited as the
19 "Institutional Aeronautics, Geospatial, Engineering, Nursing and
20 Technical Skills (AGENTS) of Excellence Proposal Act."

21 **SECTION 2.** It is the intent of the Legislature to facilitate
22 the creation of regional innovative academic programs at state
23 institutions of higher learning for the purpose of establishing
24 educational initiatives that enhance academic preparedness,
25 workforce development and career readiness through specialized
26 curriculum and instruction, with a focus on aeronautics,



27 geospatial studies, engineering, nursing, technical skills, trade
28 and workforce development.

29 **SECTION 3.** (1) Alcorn State University, Delta State
30 University, and Mississippi Valley State University shall each
31 develop a proposal for programs that addresses the need for
32 high-demand disciplines and aligns with the institution's academic
33 strengths, interests and capacity to offer instruction in
34 specialized subject areas which are targeted to improve workforce
35 readiness and postsecondary educational outcomes for underserved
36 student populations residing in the service regions of the
37 identified host institutions.

38 (2) Each university's proposal shall include, but not be
39 limited to, the following components:

40 (a) Identification of the ideal grade levels within
41 Grades 9 through 12 that would be most conducive to the
42 institution's program offerings, considering which grades would
43 yield optimal student outcomes;

44 (b) An analysis of the university's capacity to
45 accommodate students selected for enrollment in it AGENTS of
46 Excellence program of instruction, including, availability of
47 space within existing residential, academic and auxiliary
48 facilities, as well as an assessment of any additional capital
49 outlay necessary for implementation and sustainability;

50 (c) A framework for the delivery of instruction,
51 including, whether said instruction will be provided solely by



52 university instructors, licensed high school teachers, or through
53 a hybrid model integrating secondary and postsecondary educators
54 to provide instruction and training;

55 (d) Opportunities for dual enrollment that allow
56 participating students to earn both high school and college credit
57 through the host institution;

58 (e) A projected cost analysis that addresses program
59 implementation, administration, curriculum development,
60 instruction, and room and board;

61 (f) The inclusion of any additional components
62 conducive to establishing, expanding and sustaining programs in
63 aeronautics, geospatial studies, engineering, nursing, technical
64 skills, trade and workforce development; and

65 (g) Components necessary to address academic and
66 workforce needs specific to the region and the targeted student
67 demographic, including, but not limited, to partnerships with
68 educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, businesses,
69 manufacturers and enterprises to:

70 (i) Provide mentorship, internships and career
71 development opportunities for students;

72 (ii) Establish minimum standards governing annual
73 increases in the academic performance indicators;

74 (iii) Conduct ongoing assessments of student
75 performance, including an initial baseline assessment of knowledge



76 and skills in each grade level and academic content area in which
77 instruction is provided;

78 (iv) Establish data-driven instructional programs;

79 (v) Provide curriculum that is aligned with state
80 academic standards for college and career readiness;

81 (vi) Provide academic support and interventions,
82 including tutoring and other appropriate educational assistance,
83 that are targeted for students who perform below proficiency
84 standards on an academic performance indicator;

85 (vii) Provide for a minimum of instructional hours
86 as applicable, which may include any of the following:

87 1. An extended school day;
88 2. An extended school year;
89 3. A minimum of four (4) weeks of summer
90 school; and

91 4. Saturday instructional classes;

92 (viii) Provide programs to improve professional
93 development programs for administrators, teachers and support
94 professionals that focus on communication centered upon students'
95 academic and career goals;

96 (ix) Formulate and implement programs designed to
97 improve the learning environment and school culture, which shall
98 include measures to ensure the safety of students and staff, and
99 may include the following:

100 1. Positive behavioral supports;



101 2. Professional development; and

102 3. Coordination with community partners.

103 **SECTION 4.** (1) Each university shall submit its completed

104 proposal to the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher
105 Learning and the State Board of Education, which shall promulgate
106 rules and regulations governing the proposal process, including,
107 but not limited to:

108 (a) Establishing minimum criteria for proposal
109 submissions;

110 (b) Establishing deadlines for receipt, review, and
111 approval or denial of proposals received;

112 (c) Providing technical assistance to universities in
113 the preparation and submission of proposals; and

114 (d) Ensuring alignment with state educational goals and
115 workforce development initiatives.

116 (2) To the extent possible, the boards shall, upon approval
117 of proposals, enter into agreements with each host institution for
118 the dual enrollment of eligible students attending the program.
119 The boards may develop and issue necessary regulations for the
120 coordination of such courses for these students and the
121 preparation and transfer of transcripts upon completion and
122 graduation.

123 **SECTION 5.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
124 and after July 1, 2025.



**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE "INSTITUTIONAL AERONAUTICS, GEOSPATIAL,
2 ENGINEERING, NURSING AND TECHNICAL SKILLS (AGENTS) OF EXCELLENCE
3 PROPOSAL ACT"; TO REQUIRE ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY, DELTA STATE
4 UNIVERSITY AND MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY TO DEVELOP AND
5 SUBMIT A PROPOSAL FOR PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS THE NEED FOR HIGH-DEMAND
6 DISCIPLINES THAT ENHANCE ACADEMIC PREPAREDNESS, WORKFORCE
7 DEVELOPMENT AND CAREER READINESS; TO REQUIRE THAT EACH
8 UNIVERSITY'S PROPOSAL SHALL BE BASED ON ITS PARTICULAR INTERESTS
9 AND STRENGTHS AROUND CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM OFFERINGS; TO REQUIRE
10 THAT THE PROPOSAL INCLUDE CERTAIN CRITERIA; TO REQUIRE THAT THE
11 PROPOSAL BE SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE
12 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING AND THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION;
13 TO REQUIRE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER
14 LEARNING AND THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO PROMULGATE RULES AND
15 REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE PROPOSAL PROCESS; AND FOR RELATED
16 PURPOSES.

