

By: Senator(s) Ferris

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2276

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 75-76-34, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO AUTHORIZE THE PUBLIC COMMUNITY/JUNIOR COLLEGES TO OFFER LIMITED
3 GAMING-RELATED COURSES AND NOT BE SUBJECT TO REGULATION BY THE
4 MISSISSIPPI GAMING COMMISSION; TO AMEND SECTIONS 37-29-1 AND
5 37-29-63, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO CONFORM TO THE PROVISIONS
6 OF THIS ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES. BE IT ENACTED BY THE
7 LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

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9 SECTION 1. Section 75-76-34, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10 amended as follows:

11 75-76-34. (1) Except as otherwise provided herein, the
12 Mississippi Gaming Commission is authorized to regulate all
13 schools or training institutions that teach or train gaming
14 employees. Such schools shall only be located in counties where
15 gaming is legal aboard a cruise vessel or vessel or in counties
16 where cruise vessels were legally operating out of a port at the
17 time of passage of the Mississippi Gaming Control Act pursuant to
18 Section 19-3-79, unless the schools, courses or training is
19 offered by a public community/junior college. No such school
20 shall be located on publicly owned property unless the property is
21 under the jurisdiction of a public community/junior college, and
22 no public school shall teach or train persons to be gaming
23 dealers. The gaming activities of schools or training
24 institutions regulated by the commission, and those excepted from
25 such regulation as provided herein, shall be deemed to be legal
26 under the laws of the State of Mississippi. Any person desiring
27 to operate a school or training institution must file a license
28 application with the executive director to be licensed by the
29 commission.

(2) The commission may adopt regulations it deems necessary to regulate schools and training institutions. Public community/junior colleges are not subject to regulation of the commission for the purposes of this section. These regulations shall, without limiting the general powers of the commission, include the following:

(a) Prescribing the method and form of application which any applicant for a school or training institution must follow and complete before consideration of his application by the executive director or commission.

(b) Prescribing the information to be furnished by the applicant relating to his employees.

(c) Requiring fingerprinting of the applicant, employees and students of the school or institution or other methods of identification and the forwarding of all fingerprints taken pursuant to regulation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(d) Requiring any applicant to pay all or part of the fees and costs of investigation of the applicant as may be determined by the commission.

(e) Prescribing the manner and method of collection and payment of fees and costs and issuance of licenses to schools or training institutions.

(f) Prescribing under what conditions a licensee authorized by this section may be deemed subject to revocation or suspension of his license.

(g) Defining the curriculum of the school or training institution, the games and devices permitted, the use of tokens only for instruction purposes, and the method of operation of games and devices.

(h) Requiring the applicant to submit its location of the school or training institution, which shall be at least four hundred (400) feet from any church, school, kindergarten or

63 funeral home. However, within an area zoned commercial or
64 business, the minimum distance shall not be less than one hundred
65 (100) feet.

66 (i) Requiring that all employees and students of the
67 school or training institution be at least twenty-one (21) years
68 of age and be a resident of the State of Mississippi.

69 (j) Requiring all employees and students of the school
70 or training institution to wear identification cards issued by the
71 commission while on the premises of the school or training
72 institution.

73 (k) Requiring the commission to investigate each
74 applicant, employee and student and determine that the individual
75 does not fall within any one (1) of the following categories:

76 (i) Is under indictment for, or has been convicted
77 in any court of, a felony;

78 (ii) Is a fugitive from justice;

79 (iii) Is an unlawful user of any controlled
80 substance, is addicted to any controlled substance or alcoholic
81 beverage, or is an habitual drunkard;

82 (iv) Is a mental defective, has been committed to
83 a mental institution, or has been voluntarily committed to a
84 mental institution on more than one (1) occasion;

85 (v) Has been discharged from the Armed Forces
86 under dishonorable conditions; or

87 (vi) Has been found at any time by the executive
88 director or commission to have falsified any information.

89 SECTION 2. Section 37-29-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
90 amended as follows:

91 37-29-1. (1) The creation, establishment, maintenance and
92 operation of community and junior colleges is authorized. From
93 and after May 1, 1998, community and junior colleges may admit
94 students if they have earned one (1) unit less than the number of
95 units required for high school graduation established by State

Board of Education policy or have earned a General Education Diploma (GED) in courses correlated to those of senior colleges or professional schools. Subject to the provisions of Section 75-76-34, they shall offer education and training preparatory for occupations such as agriculture, industry, business, homemaking and for other occupations on the semi-professional and vocational-technical level. They may offer courses and services to students regardless of their previous educational attainment or further academic plans.

(2) The boards of trustees of the community and junior college districts are authorized to establish a dual enrollment program under which high school students meeting the requirements prescribed herein may enroll at a community or junior college while they are still attending high school and enrolled in high school courses. Students may be admitted to enroll in community or junior college courses under the dual enrollment program if they meet the following recommended admission requirements:

(a) Students must have completed a minimum of fourteen (14) core high school units;

(b) Students must have a minimum ACT composite score of twenty-one (21) or the equivalent SAT score;

(c) Students must have a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale, or better, on all high school courses, as documented by an official high school transcript; a home-schooled student must submit a transcript prepared by a parent, guardian or custodian with a signed, sworn affidavit to meet the requirement of this paragraph (c); and

(d) Students must have an unconditional written recommendation from their high school principal and/or guidance counselor. A home-schooled student must submit a parent, legal guardian or custodian's written recommendation to meet the requirement of this paragraph (d).

Students may be considered for the dual enrollment program

who have not completed the minimum of fourteen (14) core high school units if they have a minimum ACT composite score of thirty (30) or the equivalent SAT score, and have the required grade point average and recommendations prescribed above.

Students admitted in the dual enrollment program shall be counted for minimum program funding purposes in the average daily attendance of the public school district in which they attend high school. Any additional transportation required by a student to participate in the dual enrollment program shall be the responsibility of the parents or legal guardians of the student. Grades and college credits earned by students admitted to the dual enrollment program shall be recorded on the college transcript at the community or junior college where the student attends classes.

The transcript of such college course work may be released to another institution or used for college graduation requirements only after the student has received his high school diploma.

(3) The boards of trustees of the community and junior college districts are authorized to establish an early admission program under which applicants meeting all requirements prescribed in subsection (2)(a), (c) and (d) and have a minimum ACT composite score of twenty-six (26) or the equivalent SAT score may be admitted as full-time college students if the principal or guidance counsellor of the student recommends in writing that it is in the best educational interest of the student. Such recommendation shall also state that the student's age will not keep him from being a successful full-time college student. Students admitted in the early admission program shall not be counted for minimum program funding purposes in the average daily attendance of the school district in which they reside, and transportation required by a student to participate in the early admission program shall be the responsibility of the parents or legal guardians of the student. Grades and college credits earned by students admitted to the early admission program shall be

recorded on the college transcript at the community or junior college where the student attends classes, and may be released to another institution or used for college graduation requirements only after the student has successfully completed one (1) full semester of course work.

(4) In addition to the foregoing, the community and junior colleges shall provide, through courses or other acceptable educational measures, the general education necessary to individuals and groups which will tend to make them capable of living satisfactory lives consistent with the ideals of a democratic society.

SECTION 3. Section 37-29-63, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

37-29-63. The president of any junior college shall have the power to recommend to the board of trustees all teachers to be employed in the district. He may remove or suspend any member of the faculty subject to the approval of the trustees. He shall be the general manager of all fiscal and administrative affairs of the district with full authority to select, direct, employ and discharge any and all employees other than teachers; however, the board may make provisions and establish policies for leave for faculty members and other key personnel.

The president shall have the authority, subject to the provisions of Section 75-76-34 and Sections 37-29-1 through 37-29-273 and the approval of the trustees, to arrange and survey courses of study, fix schedules, and establish and enforce rules and discipline for the governing of teachers and students. He shall be the general custodian of the property of the district.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 1999.