

*****Adopted*****

AMENDMENT No. 1 PROPOSED TO

House Bill NO. 337

By Senator(s) Michel

1 **AMEND by inserting the following after line 138 and**

2 **renumbering:**

3 SECTION *. (1) There is established a study committee on
4 creating a Mississippi Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally
5 (MHOPE) scholarship program to study and make recommendations to
6 the Legislature on the establishment and implementation of a
7 program of free college tuition in the State of Mississippi for
8 highly achieving Mississippi students. The committee shall make a
9 report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature
10 before December 1, 2002.

11 (2) The committee shall examine the Helping Outstanding
12 Pupils Educationally (HOPE) scholarship program in the State of
13 Georgia and similar programs that have been implemented in other
14 states in order to gain a full understanding of such programs. In
15 its report to the Legislature, the committee shall include
16 recommended modifications, if any, which should be made to the
17 Georgia HOPE program for MHOPE and suggestions on the possible
18 integration of currently existing scholarship and tuition
19 assistance programs in Mississippi with MHOPE. The report must
20 include a fiscal note on the projected costs of MHOPE, and the
21 committee shall identify possible revenue streams for funding the
22 program.

23 (3) The study committee shall be composed of the following

24 fifteen (15) members:

25 (a) The Chairmen of the House Universities and
26 Colleges, Education and Appropriations Committees;

27 (b) Two (2) members of the House of Representatives
28 appointed by the Speaker of the House, or their designees from the
29 House membership;

30 (c) The Chairmen of the Senate Universities and
31 Colleges, Education and Appropriations Committees;

32 (d) Two (2) members of the Senate appointed by the
33 Lieutenant Governor, or their designees from the Senate
34 membership;

35 (e) The Commissioner of Higher Education or his
36 designee;

37 (f) The State Superintendent of Public Education or his
38 designee;

39 (g) The President of the Board of Trustees of State
40 Institutions of Higher Learning or his designee from the board;

41 (h) The President of State Board for Community and
42 Junior Colleges or his designee from the board; and

43 (i) A representative of a local district of Rotary
44 International or his designee.

45 In making their legislative appointments, the Lieutenant
46 Governor and Speaker of the House shall endeavor to achieve a
47 diverse representation, with all geographical areas of the state
48 being represented on the committee.

49 (4) If any chairman of a legislative committee serving on
50 the study committee is unable to attend any meeting of the
51 committee, the vice chairman of the respective committee may
52 attend and vote at such meeting. Appointments shall be made
53 within thirty (30) days after passage of this act. Within fifteen
54 (15) days thereafter, on a day to be designated jointly by the
55 Speaker of the House and the Lieutenant Governor, the study
56 committee shall meet and organize by selecting from its membership
57 a chairman and vice chairman. The vice chairman shall serve as
58 secretary and shall be responsible for keeping all records of the

59 study committee. A majority of the members of the study committee
60 shall constitute a quorum. In the selection of its officers and
61 the adoption of rules, resolutions and reports, an affirmative
62 vote of a majority of the study committee is required. All
63 members shall be notified in writing of all meetings, and such
64 notices must be mailed at least five (5) days before the date on
65 which a meeting is to be held.

66 (5) Subject to the availability of funds, for attending
67 meetings of the study committee, members who are not legislators
68 shall be compensated at the per diem rate authorized by Section
69 25-3-69, Mississippi Code of 1972, and shall be reimbursed in
70 accordance with Section 25-3-41, Mississippi Code of 1972, for
71 mileage and actual expenses incurred in attending meetings of the
72 committee. Each legislative member of the committee shall be paid
73 from the contingent expense fund of his respective house per diem
74 in the amount authorized by Section 25-3-69, Mississippi Code of
75 1972, and a mileage allowance and an expense allowance in the
76 amount authorized by Section 5-1-47, Mississippi Code of 1972.
77 However, no per diem, mileage allowance or expense allowance may
78 be paid for attending meetings of the committee while the
79 Legislature is in session, and no per diem, mileage allowance or
80 expense allowance may be paid without prior approval of the proper
81 committee in the member's respective house. Any member who is
82 also a state employee shall not be eligible to receive per diem
83 compensation. No study committee member may incur per diem,
84 travel or other expenses unless previously authorized by vote, at
85 a meeting of the study committee, which action must be recorded in
86 the official minutes of the meeting. Nonlegislative members may
87 be paid from any funds made available to the study committee for
88 that purpose.

89 (6) The study committee may employ consultants or staff and
90 may utilize clerical and legal staff employed by the Board of
91 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, the Office of
92 the Governor, the Legislature and any other staff assistance made
93 available to the committee.

94 (7) Funding for the study committee may be provided from any
95 funds that may be appropriated by the Legislature for the expenses
96 of the study committee. The study committee may accept money from
97 any source, public or private, to be expended in implementing its
98 duties under this act.

99 (8) Upon presentation of its report to the Legislature
100 before the 2003 Regular Session, the study committee shall be
101 dissolved.

102 **FURTHER, amend the title by inserting the following after the**
103 **semicolon on line 5:**

104 TO ESTABLISH A STUDY COMMITTEE ON CREATING A MISSISSIPPI HELPING
105 OUTSTANDING PUPILS EDUCATIONALLY (MHOPE) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; TO
106 DIRECT THE STUDY COMMITTEE TO SUBMIT A WRITTEN REPORT OF ITS
107 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE BEFORE DECEMBER 1,
108 2002;