

By: Senator(s) Hickman, Boyd, Simmons
(12th), Butler, Simmons (13th), Norwood

To: Accountability,
Efficiency, Transparency;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2244
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 37-99-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
2 1972, TO REQUIRE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF
3 HIGHER LEARNING AND THE BOARDS OF TRUSTEES OF THE COMMUNITY AND
4 JUNIOR COLLEGES TO ADOPT POLICIES REQUIRING EACH PUBLIC
5 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING, COMMUNITY OR JUNIOR COLLEGE TO
6 PROVIDE FREE TRANSCRIPTS TO FOSTER CARE CHILDREN AND CHILDREN
7 PLACED IN THE LEGAL CUSTODY OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF CHILD
8 PROTECTION SERVICES; TO CREATE NEW SECTION 55-3-87, MISSISSIPPI
9 CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT FOSTER CARE CHILDREN AND CHILDREN
10 WHO WERE PREVIOUSLY PLACED IN THE LEGAL CUSTODY OF THE MISSISSIPPI
11 DEPARTMENT OF CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES AND THEIR FAMILY,
12 INCLUDING THEIR BIOLOGICAL PARENTS AND SIBLINGS, THEIR FOSTER
13 PARENTS AND SIBLINGS, THEIR ADOPTED PARENTS AND SIBLINGS, THEIR
14 GUARDIANS OR ANY OTHER MEMBER OF THEIR DIRECT HOUSEHOLD, AS
15 APPLICABLE, SHALL BE ALLOWED FREE ADMISSION TO ANY STATE PARK IN
16 THIS STATE; TO PROVIDE THAT FOSTER CARE CHILDREN AND CHILDREN WHO
17 WERE PREVIOUSLY PLACED IN THE LEGAL CUSTODY OF THE MISSISSIPPI
18 DEPARTMENT OF CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES AND THEIR FAMILY,
19 INCLUDING THEIR BIOLOGICAL PARENTS AND SIBLINGS, THEIR FOSTER
20 PARENTS AND SIBLINGS, THEIR ADOPTED PARENTS AND SIBLINGS, THEIR
21 GUARDIANS OR ANY OTHER MEMBER OF THEIR DIRECT HOUSEHOLD, AS
22 APPLICABLE, SHALL BE ALLOWED FREE ADMISSION TO ANY PUBLICLY FUNDED
23 MUSEUM IN THIS STATE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

25 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section
26 37-99-3, Mississippi Code of 1972:



27 37-99-3. (1) As used in this section, the following terms
28 shall have the meaning ascribed in this subsection, unless context
29 of use clearly requires otherwise:

30 (a) "Department" means the Mississippi Department of
31 Child Protection Services.

32 (b) "Eligible child" means:

33 (i) Any individual who is younger than twenty-one
34 (21) years of age who was placed in the legal custody of the
35 Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services by a youth
36 court or through other legal means and who was in the legal
37 custody of the department at any time;

38 (ii) Any individual who is younger than twenty-one
39 (21) years of age who was placed in a qualified residential child
40 care agency by a parent, legal guardian, court of competent
41 jurisdiction, or other person or entity acting in the best
42 interest of the individual and who did reside in a qualified
43 residential child care agency at any time; or

44 (iii) Any individual who is younger than
45 twenty-one (21) years of age who was adopted from the department's
46 legal custody or adopted while residing at a qualified residential
47 child care agency as described in paragraph (c) of this subsection
48 at any time.

49 (c) "Qualified residential child care agency" means an
50 entity that provides a home for children and was licensed by the



51 Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services at the time
52 that the eligible child was housed by the agency.

53 (2) The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher
54 Learning and the boards of trustees of the community and junior
55 colleges shall adopt policies requiring each public institution of
56 higher learning, community or junior college to provide free
57 transcripts to an eligible child when requested.

58 **SECTION 2.** The following shall be codified as Section
59 55-3-87, Mississippi Code of 1972:

60 55-3-87. (1) As used in this section, the following terms
61 shall have the meaning ascribed in this subsection, unless context
62 of use clearly requires otherwise:

63 (a) "Department" means the Mississippi Department of
64 Child Protection Services.

65 (b) "Eligible foster parent" means an individual
66 licensed by the Mississippi Department of Child Protection
67 Services to operate a foster home to provide residential care to a
68 child in the department's custody.

69 (c) "Eligible child agency" means a child-placing
70 agency or a residential child-caring agency licensed by the
71 Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services as set forth
72 in Section 43-15-107.

73 (d) "State Park" shall mean any land operated by the
74 Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks for the
75 purpose of providing outdoor recreational activities and enjoyment



76 for the citizens of the State of Mississippi and for the purpose
77 of attracting visitors to the state.

78 (2) An eligible foster parent, including his or her spouse,
79 foster children, biological children or any other member of his or
80 her direct household, or the staff of an eligible child agency
81 together with the children placed with the agency, as applicable,
82 shall be allowed free admission to any state park in this state
83 upon showing the appropriate license/certificate issued by the
84 department.

85 **SECTION 3.** (1) As used in this section, the following terms
86 shall have the meaning ascribed in this subsection, unless context
87 of use clearly requires otherwise:

88 (a) "Department" means the Mississippi Department of
89 Child Protection Services.

90 (b) "Eligible foster parent" means an individual
91 licensed by the Mississippi Department of Child Protection
92 Services to operate a foster home to provide residential care to a
93 child in the department's custody.

94 (c) "Museum" means a public agency or institution
95 located in this state and organized on a permanent basis for
96 essentially educational or aesthetic purposes, which utilizes a
97 professional staff, owns or utilizes tangible objects, cares for
98 them, and exhibits them to the public on a regular basis.

99 (d) "Eligible child agency" means a child-placing
100 agency or a residential child-caring agency licensed by the



101 Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services as set forth
102 in Section 43-15-107.

103 (2) An eligible foster parent, including his or her spouse,
104 foster children, biological children or any other member of his or
105 her direct household, or the staff of an eligible child agency
106 together with the children placed with the agency, as applicable,
107 shall be allowed free admission to any museum in this state upon
108 showing the appropriate license/certificate issued by the
109 department.

110 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
111 and after July 1, 2024.

