

By: Senator(s) Polk

To: Universities and
Colleges

SENATE BILL NO. 2726

1 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 37-101-450, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
2 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS
3 OF HIGHER LEARNING SHALL CHOOSE THREE OF THE STATE INSTITUTIONS OF
4 HIGHER LEARNING TO CLOSE BY JUNE 30, 2028; TO REQUIRE THE BOARD TO
5 ANNOUNCE ITS DECISION BY JUNE 30, 2025; TO REQUIRE THE BOARD TO
6 PROMULGATE FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED IN ITS DECISION, INCLUDING
7 ENROLLMENT DATA, DEGREES OFFERED, ECONOMIC IMPACT, AND ANY
8 ADDITIONAL PURPOSES THAT THE INSTITUTION CURRENTLY SERVES TO THE
9 STATE AND ITS CITIZENS, INCLUDING PROVIDING MEDICAL SERVICES,
10 AGRICULTURE RESEARCH OR ENGINEERING RESEARCH OR SERVICES; TO
11 REQUIRE THE BOARD TO HOST ONE LISTENING SESSION AT THE CAMPUS OF
12 EACH INSTITUTION BEFORE ANNOUNCING ITS DECISION; TO PROVIDE THAT
13 FOR EACH STATE INSTITUTION THAT THE BOARD CLOSES, SUCH
14 INSTITUTION'S REAL PROPERTY, TOGETHER WITH THE BUILDINGS AND OTHER
15 IMPROVEMENTS ERECTED THEREON, ALONG WITH ITS ASSETS AND FUNDS MAY
16 BE TRANSFERRED OR CONVEYED TO ANOTHER STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL
17 SUBDIVISION OR SOLD TO A NONPROFIT ENTITY; TO PROVIDE THAT ANY
18 UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INSTITUTE OR LABORATORY ESTABLISHED WITHIN
19 TITLES 37, 49 OR 57 THAT IS LOCATED AT AN INSTITUTION THAT IS
20 CLOSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ACT MAY BE REESTABLISHED WITHIN
21 ANOTHER INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING AS DECIDED BY THE BOARD OF
22 TRUSTEES OF THE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING; TO PROVIDE THE
23 APPLICABLE CODE SECTIONS THAT WILL BE REPEALED FOR EACH
24 INSTITUTION IF THE INSTITUTION IS CHOSEN BY THE BOARD TO BE
25 CLOSED; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

27 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section
28 37-101-450, Mississippi Code of 1972:



29 37-101-450. (1) The Board of Trustees of State Institutions
30 of Higher Learning shall choose three (3) of the state
31 institutions of higher learning from those institutions currently
32 under its management as provided in Section 37-101-1 to close by
33 June 30, 2028. By June 30, 2025, the board shall announce which
34 institutions shall be closed.

35 (2) The board shall promulgate factors to be considered in
36 its decision, including, but not limited to, the following:

37 (a) Enrollment data and degree attainment percentage;

38 (b) Federal aid, including grants provided for
39 scholarship and research;

40 (c) Tuition rates and scholarship endowments;

41 (d) Degrees offered, including graduate degrees and
42 doctorate degrees, or other professional degrees;

43 (e) An institution's economic impact on the local
44 community, region and state;

45 (f) Any additional purposes that the institution
46 currently serves to the state and its citizens, including
47 providing medical services, agriculture research, or engineering
48 research or services; and

49 (g) Any other special factors that the board believes
50 the institution offers that cannot be easily replaced or
51 replicated.



52 (3) The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher
53 Learning shall host one (1) listening session at the campus of
54 each institution before announcing its decision.

55 (4) For each state institution that the Board of Trustees of
56 State Institutions of Higher Learning closes, such institution's
57 real property, together with the buildings and other improvements
58 erected thereon, along with its assets and funds may be
59 transferred or conveyed to another state agency or political
60 subdivision or sold to a nonprofit entity; provided, however, that
61 if any real property or assets are sold, such sale shall be held
62 in accordance with state bidding law.

63 (5) Any university research institute or laboratory
64 established within Titles 37, 49 or 57 that is located at an
65 institution that is closed in accordance with this act may be
66 reestablished within another institution of higher learning as
67 decided by the board of trustees of the institution of higher
68 learning.

69 (6) If the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher
70 Learning chooses to close the University of Mississippi, the
71 following sections shall stand repealed on June 30, 2028:

72 (a) Sections 1-1-60, 1-5-17, 7-3-19 and 25-65-7(a) (xi)
73 through (xii) which provide for certain reports and copies of the
74 Mississippi code to be provided to the law school of the
75 university and administration of the university by the board;



76 (b) Sections 37-101-1(a), 37-101-4 and 37-106-63, which
77 provide for financial assistance and administration of the
78 university by the board;

79 (c) Sections 37-115-1, 37-115-3, 37-115-5, 37-115-21,
80 37-115-23, 37-115-25, 37-115-27, 37-115-29, 37-115-31, 37-115-33,
81 37-115-35, 37-115-41, 37-115-43, 37-115-45, 37-115-47, 37-115-48,
82 37-115-49, 37-115-50, 37-115-50.1, 37-115-50.2, 37-115-50.3 and
83 37-115-51, which provide for the organization of the university,
84 school of medicine, medical center and nursing school;

85 (d) Sections 37-115-61, 37-115-63, 37-115-65,
86 37-115-67, 37-115-69, 37-115-71, 37-115-73 and 37-115-75, which
87 provide for the local governmental issuance of bonds for the
88 benefit of the university;

89 (e) Sections 37-115-101, 37-115-103, 37-115-105,
90 37-115-107, 37-115-109, 37-115-111, 37-115-121 and 37-115-131,
91 which provide for the School of Dentistry, School of Law, and
92 Declaration of Independence Center; and

93 (f) Sections 37-129-3, 37-144-1, 37-144-3, 37-144-5,
94 37-144-7, 37-144-9, 37-144-11, 37-144-13, 37-144-15, 37-144-17,
95 37-144-19, 37-144-21, 37-146-1, 37-146-3, 37-146-5, 37-146-7,
96 37-146-9, 37-146-11, 37-146-13, 37-146-17, 37-146-19 and
97 37-146-21, which provide for the School of Nursing, Rural
98 Physician Scholarship Program and Rural Dentists Scholarship
99 Program through the university.



100 (7) If the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher
101 Learning chooses to close Mississippi State University, the
102 following sections shall stand repealed on June 30, 2028:

103 (a) Sections 25-65-7(a)(iv) through (viii), 37-101-1(b)
104 and 37-102-15(2), which provide for financial assistance and
105 administration of the university by the board; and

106 (b) Sections 37-113-1, 37-113-3, 37-113-5, 37-113-6,
107 37-113-7, 37-113-9, 37-113-11, 37-113-13, 37-113-15, 37-113-17,
108 37-113-19, 37-113-20, 37-113-21, 37-113-22, 37-113-23, 37-113-25,
109 37-113-27, 37-113-28, 37-113-35, 37-113-39, 37-113-41, 37-113-43,
110 37-113-45, 37-113-47, 37-113-48, 37-113-49, 37-113-50, 37-113-51,
111 37-113-53 and 37-113-61, which provide for the university, its
112 administration and property, its branch experiment station system,
113 the College of Veterinary Medicine and the local governmental
114 issuance of bonds for the benefit of the university.

115 (8) If the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher
116 Learning chooses to close Mississippi Valley State University, the
117 following sections shall stand repealed on June 30, 2028:

118 Sections 37-127-1, 37-127-3, 37-127-5, 37-127-7, 37-101-1(h)
119 and 25-65-7(a)(x), which provide for the financial assistance,
120 purpose and administration of the university by the board.

121 (9) If the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher
122 Learning chooses to close Alcorn State University, the following
123 sections shall stand repealed on June 30, 2028:



124 Sections 37-121-1, 37-121-3, 37-121-5, 37-121-7, 37-121-9,
125 37-121-11, 37-121-13, 37-121-15, 37-121-17, 37-121-19, 57-61-43,
126 37-101-1(f) and 25-65-7(a) (i) which provide for the financial
127 assistance, purpose and administration of the university by the
128 board, the baseball field and stadium, basketball court,
129 experimental station branch, tax liability, vegetable processing
130 facility and dining facility, and the administration of the
131 university by the board.

132 (10) If the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of
133 Higher Learning chooses to close Jackson State University, the
134 following sections shall stand repealed on June 30, 2028:

135 Sections 37-125-1, 37-125-3, 37-125-5, 37-125-7, 25-65-7(iii)
136 and 37-101-1(g), which provide for creation, purposes, situs and
137 head of university and administration of the university by the
138 board.

139 (11) If the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of
140 Higher Learning chooses to close Mississippi University for Women,
141 the following sections shall stand repealed on June 30, 2028:

142 Sections 25-65-7(ix), 37-101-1(c), 37-117-1, 37-117-3,
143 37-117-5, 37-117-7, 37-117-9 and 37-117-11, which provide for the
144 purpose and direction of the university, apportionment by county
145 and organization of the university and the administration of the
146 university by the board.



147 (12) If the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of
148 Higher Learning chooses to close Delta State University, the
149 following sections shall stand repealed on June 30, 2028:

150 Sections 37-123-1, 37-123-3, 37-123-5, 37-101-1(e) and
151 25-65-7(a)(ii), which provide for the organization of the
152 university, eligibility for admission, purpose and administration
153 of the university by the board.

154 (13) If the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of
155 Higher Learning chooses to close the University of Southern
156 Mississippi, the following sections shall stand repealed on June
157 30, 2028:

158 Sections 37-119-1, 37-119-3, 37-119-5, 37-119-7, 37-119-9,
159 37-102-7, 37-101-1(d) and 25-65-7(a)(xiii), which provide for the
160 purpose and organization of the university, eligibility for
161 admission, certain bond authority, various educational funds and
162 administration of the university by the board.

163 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
164 and after July 1, 2024.

