

By: Senator(s) Hopson, Polk, Parks, Butler,  
DeBar, DeLano

To: Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 3013

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF  
2 STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING FOR THE SUPPORT AND  
3 MAINTENANCE OF FINANCIAL AID SCHOLARSHIP, LOAN AND GRANT PROGRAMS  
4 AND THE MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID, FOR FISCAL  
5 YEAR 2025.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
8 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State  
9 General Fund not otherwise appropriated, to the Board of Trustees  
10 of State Institutions of Higher Learning for the support and  
11 maintenance of financial aid scholarship, loan and grant programs  
12 authorized by law and administered by the Mississippi Office of  
13 Student Financial Aid and for support of the Mississippi Office of  
14 Student Financial Aid, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024,  
15 and ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 60,474,416.00.

16 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
17 necessary, is hereby authorized out of the proceeds derived from  
18 any federal funds, grants, donations, fees, or other special  
19 source funds which are collected by or otherwise become available



20 for the support and maintenance of financial aid scholarship, loan  
21 and grant programs authorized by law including funds used as  
22 federal matching funds for the GEAR UP Mississippi Scholarship  
23 Program and administered by the Mississippi Office of Student  
24 Financial Aid and for support of the Mississippi Office of Student  
25 Financial Aid, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and  
26 ending June 30, 2025.....\$ 4,740,000.00.

27 **SECTION 3.** None of the funds appropriated in this act shall  
28 be paid to or for the benefit of any student who applies for the  
29 first time, subsequent to July 1, 2024, for assistance through the  
30 Southeast Asia POW/MIA Grant established under the provisions of  
31 Section 37-106-41, the Public Management Graduate Internship  
32 established under the provisions of Section 37-106-43, the State  
33 Medical Education Loan established under the provisions of Section  
34 37-106-61, the State Dental Education Loan established under the  
35 provisions of Section 37-106-63, the Graduate and Professional  
36 Degree Forgivable Loan established under the provisions of Section  
37 37-106-65, the Health Care Professions Forgivable Loan established  
38 under the provisions of Section 37-106-67, or the Family  
39 Protection Specialist Social Worker Forgivable Loan established  
40 under the provisions of Section 37-106-69.

41 **SECTION 4.** It is the intention of the Legislature that of  
42 the funds appropriated under the provisions of Section 1 of this  
43 act, the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher  
44 Learning shall expend from the support of the out-of-state



45 graduate and professional studies program an amount not exceeding  
46 the funding necessary, contingent upon the availability of  
47 qualified applicants, for nine (9) new entering optometry students  
48 and the number of returning optometry students who received  
49 funding under the program during the preceding school year.

50         **SECTION 5.** In the allocation of funds appropriated under the  
51 provisions of Sections 1 and 2 of this act, among the student  
52 financial aid programs included herein, it is the intention of the  
53 Legislature that priority shall be given and funds shall be first  
54 allocated to all students eligible for financial aid under the  
55 provisions of Section 37-106-39, Mississippi Code of 1972.

56         **SECTION 6.** All funds provided for in this act shall be  
57 accounted for in an annual report, which shall be submitted at the  
58 next regular session of the Legislature within ten (10) days after  
59 the convening thereof. The report should detail for each grant,  
60 scholarship, or loan program the number of recipients, the total  
61 amount of awards made, and the average award amount. The report  
62 shall include the number of students at each institution receiving  
63 financial assistance and the amount of such assistance. For loan  
64 programs, the report shall also include a summary of the repayment  
65 status and method of repayment for student cohorts as well as an  
66 accounting of the receipt of funds in repayment. Furthermore, all  
67 funds received and expended shall be reported and otherwise  
68 accounted for in accordance with the provisions of Section  
69 37-106-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, except where individual



70 identifying information must be withheld pursuant to the Family  
71 Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 USC Section 1232g  
72 34 CFR Part 99.

73 No public or private institution of higher learning receiving  
74 funds under the respective provisions of this act, for the purpose  
75 of issuing scholarship grants or loans, shall issue any official  
76 transcripts for any persons who have any amount of repayment in  
77 arrears on the date such official transcript is requested.

78 **SECTION 7.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the  
79 agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2026 shall be submitted to  
80 the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of  
81 detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided  
82 during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request process.

83 **SECTION 8.** Any funds appropriated pursuant to this act and  
84 paid as a fee to or deposited in a financial institution shall be  
85 in compliance with Section 109 of the Constitution of the State of  
86 Mississippi and Section 25-4-105, Mississippi Code of 1972.

87 **SECTION 9.** It is the intention of the Legislature that  
88 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the  
89 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things  
90 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,  
91 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
92 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to  
93 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are  
94 made without competitive bids.



95           **SECTION 10.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this  
96 act, an amount not to exceed Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00)  
97 is provided for the Speech-Language Pathologists Loan Forgiveness  
98 Program established under the provisions of Section 37-106-73,  
99 Mississippi Code of 1972, and administered by the Mississippi  
100 Office of Student Financial Aid.

101           **SECTION 11.** Awards for the Higher Education Legislative Plan  
102 Grant Program, authorized by Section 37-106-75, shall be made to  
103 applicants meeting all program requirements and found to be in  
104 financial need according to the following definition:

105                   (a) The family has one (1) child under the age of  
106 twenty-one (21), and the annual adjusted gross income of the  
107 family is less than Thirty-nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars  
108 (\$39,500.00); or

109                   (b) The family has annual adjusted gross income of less  
110 than Thirty-nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$39,500.00) plus  
111 Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) for each additional child under  
112 the age of twenty-one (21).

113           **SECTION 12.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this  
114 act, Nine Million Eight Hundred Twenty-three Thousand Dollars  
115 (\$9,823,000.00) is provided for the Mississippi Dual  
116 Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program Act of 2023, as  
117 established in Section 37-109-3, Mississippi Code of 1972. The  
118 funds provided herein are for eligible students to receive up  
119 to six (6) dual enrollment/dual credit semester credit hours prior



120 to high school graduation pursuant to Section 37-109-7,  
121 Mississippi Code of 1972.

122       **SECTION 13.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2 of this  
123 act, Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) shall be derived from  
124 funds in the Education Enhancement Fund deposited pursuant to  
125 Sections 27-65-75 and 27-67-31, Mississippi Code of 1972. This  
126 amount shall be used for the William F. Winter and Jack Reed, Sr.  
127 Teacher Loan Repayment Program established by Section 37-106-36,  
128 Mississippi Code of 1972.

129       **SECTION 14.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2 of this  
130 act, One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall be derived from  
131 funds in the Education Enhancement Fund deposited pursuant to  
132 Sections 27-65-75 and 27-67-31, Mississippi Code of 1972. This  
133 amount shall be used for the Fostering Access and Inspiring True  
134 Hope (FAITH) Scholarship Program Act established by Section  
135 37-106-81, Mississippi Code of 1972.

136       **SECTION 15.** It is the intention of the Legislature that no  
137 student should receive undergraduate grant aid through more than  
138 one state-supported undergraduate grant program in the same term  
139 of enrollment. If a student is eligible for aid through multiple  
140 grant programs, the student shall be awarded from the program that  
141 awards the larger sum.

142       **SECTION 16.** It is the intention of the Legislature that all  
143 students must demonstrate eligibility at the conclusion of each



144 term during the regular academic year in order to continue to  
145 receive state-supported aid.

146       **SECTION 17.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be  
147 necessary, is reappropriated out of any money in the Education  
148 Enhancement Fund not otherwise appropriated, to the Mississippi  
149 Office of Student Financial Aid for the purpose of reauthorizing  
150 the expenditure of Education Enhancement Funds to defray the  
151 expenses of the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid, as  
152 authorized in Senate Bill 3007, 2023 Regular Session, for the  
153 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....  
154 .....\$ 2,000,000.00.

155       This appropriation is made for the purpose of reauthorizing  
156 the expenditure of funds for the following:

- 157           (a) William F. Winter and Jack Reed, Sr., Teacher Loan  
158 Repayment Program.....\$ 1,900,000.00
- 159           (b) Fostering Access and Inspiring True Hope (FAITH)  
160 Scholarship Program Act.....\$ 100,000.00

161       Notwithstanding the amount reappropriated under this section,  
162 the amount that may be expended under the authority of this  
163 section shall not exceed the unexpended balance of the funds  
164 remaining as of June 30, 2024, from the amount authorized for the  
165 previous fiscal year. In addition, this reappropriation shall not  
166 change the purpose for which the funds were originally authorized.

167       **SECTION 18.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by  
168 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the



169 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon  
170 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer, and the State Fiscal  
171 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the  
172 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

173       **SECTION 19.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
174 and after July 1, 2024, and shall stand repealed from and after  
175 June 30, 2024.

