

## REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

**MR. SPEAKER AND MR. PRESIDENT:**

We, the undersigned conferees, have had under consideration the amendments to the following entitled BILL:

H. B. No. 1163: Community and junior colleges; authorize to contract or enter into interlocal agreements with local governing authorities for first responders services.

We, therefore, respectfully submit the following report and recommendation:

1. That the Senate recede from its Amendment No. 1.
2. That the House and Senate adopt the following amendment:

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

16           **SECTION 1.** Section 21-25-23, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
17 amended as follows:  
18           21-25-23. The governing authorities of any municipality are  
19 hereby authorized, when petitioned so to do by the Board of  
20 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning or the board of  
21 trustees of a community or junior college district, to create, by  
22 ordinance, a fire district encompassing the area adjoining such  
23 municipality on which a part or all of a State Institution of  
24 Higher Learning or a community college is located, after the  
25 creation of which such governing authorities and the Board of  
26 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning or the board of  
27 trustees of the affected community or junior college district  
28 shall have full power to contract for laying of water mains and

29 any other pipes or connections to the water mains to be used in  
30 said fire district, and for the establishment and maintenance of  
31 fire service therein. However, no such governing authority shall  
32 have the power either to promulgate or enforce any charge, rule or  
33 regulation upon said district without first having received the  
34 ratification and consent of the Board of Trustees of State  
35 Institutions of Higher Learning or the board of trustees of the  
36 affected community or junior college district as reflected by the  
37 minutes of said trustees.

38 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-29-231, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
39 amended as follows:

40 37-29-231. (1) The provisions of Sections 37-103-1 through  
41 37-103-29 relating to the legal residence of and tuition to be  
42 charged any student applying for admission to state educational  
43 institutions shall be applicable to the boards of trustees of each  
44 junior college district in the state and to the administrative  
45 authorities of each such junior college governed by said board.

46 (2) (a) The board of trustees of each community or junior  
47 college is authorized, in its discretion and as deemed necessary,  
48 to enter into contract with a municipality as authorized under  
49 Section 21-25-23, or into an interlocal agreement with the county  
50 governing authority of the county wherein the community or junior  
51 college is located if situated outside of the incorporated limits  
52 of any city or municipality therein, to provide fire protection  
53 and first responder services to the main campus of the community

54 or junior college for which the contract or interlocal agreement  
55 was entered. In addition to fire protection services, first  
56 responder services shall also include law enforcement services and  
57 emergency medical transportation services.

58 (b) Upon entering such contract or interlocal  
59 agreement, the board of trustees of the community or junior  
60 college receiving services under the contract or interlocal  
61 agreement may assess each student a fee not to exceed Five Dollars  
62 (\$5.00), each semester to offset the cost associated with the  
63 services provided, which shall be allocated by the board of  
64 trustees to the local governing authority providing first  
65 responder services. This paragraph (b) shall stand repealed on  
66 July 1, 2027.

67 **SECTION 3.** Section 37-29-141, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
68 amended as follows:

69 37-29-141. (1) The board of trustees of any junior college  
70 district is expressly authorized and empowered to make a thorough  
71 study and evaluation of the costs of operation of the junior  
72 college district, and said board shall recommend a fair and  
73 acceptable tax rate for district general support and maintenance  
74 from each of the member counties.

75 The board of trustees of any junior college district as  
76 constituted as of July 1, 1964, shall have the authority to  
77 recommend the tax levy necessary for a newly contributing county

78 to have representation on the board of trustees of said junior  
79 college.

80 From and after October 1, 1989, no county shall levy less  
81 than (a) one (1) mill for the support, and (b) one (1) mill for  
82 the enlargement, improvement and repair of the junior college  
83 within the district of which the county is a member. From and  
84 after October 1, 1990, the board of trustees of any junior college  
85 district may, by a sixty percent (60%) affirmative vote of the  
86 members of such board, recommend an additional one (1) mill which  
87 may be used for the support or for the enlargement, improvement  
88 and repair of the junior college within the district of which the  
89 county is a member. If a county is levying more than the minimum  
90 levy required herein for one category but less than the minimum  
91 levy required for the other, then the excess millage under the one  
92 may be applied towards making up the deficiency which exists in  
93 the other. If a county contributes to two (2) junior college  
94 districts, the combined levy for both districts shall not be less  
95 than the minimums required herein.

96 Any county having any school district located therein with a  
97 current operating deficit of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars  
98 (\$200,000.00) or more on July 1, 1989, shall not be required to  
99 levy the minimum millage required under this subsection (1) until  
100 such time as the said operating deficit is eliminated, or for a  
101 period of three (3) fiscal years, whichever is less. Provided,  
102 however, that no such county shall levy a smaller tax millage for

103 capital improvements and general support of a junior college  
104 district than was levied for the previous year.

105 No county shall levy a smaller tax millage for capital  
106 improvements and general support of a junior college district than  
107 was levied for the previous year, unless requested to make such  
108 reduction by the board of trustees of the district. When a county  
109 has a general reassessment of property to increase the county ad  
110 valorem tax assessments, such county may reduce the millage for  
111 general support and capital improvements, provided that its  
112 aggregate budget for junior college purposes is not lower than was  
113 paid the previous year.

114 In lieu of taxation, the board of trustees may fix the amount  
115 of enrollee tuition in an amount commensurate with the per capita  
116 cost of operating the district, which may also include any fees  
117 assessed by the board upon each student enrolled under the  
118 authority of Section 37-29-231 for the purpose of offsetting the  
119 cost of first responder services provided to the main campus of  
120 the community college by the local governing authority in  
121 accordance with the provisions of the contract entered into under  
122 the authority of Section 21-25-23 or the interlocal agreement  
123 entered into under the authority of Section 37-29-231.

124 (2) Taxes for the support, enlargement, improvement and  
125 repairs of junior colleges shall be levied annually against all of  
126 the property of each county and of each municipal separate school  
127 district, including added territory, which has established or may

128 hereafter establish, or which has joined or may hereafter join, in  
129 the establishment or support of a junior college. In no case  
130 shall such levy exceed three (3) mills for support and three (3)  
131 mills for enlargement, improvement and repairs for each junior  
132 college within the district of which the county or municipal  
133 separate school district may be a component.

134 (3) The levy for support for any year in any given county or  
135 separate school district is that presently prevailing therein  
136 unless a change is recommended to the tax levying authorities by  
137 the board of trustees or by a vote of the people ascertained in an  
138 election called for that purpose by the tax levying authorities  
139 subsequent to the petition therefor signed by twenty percent (20%)  
140 of the qualified electors.

141 (4) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the  
142 contrary, the minimum millage required under subsection (1) shall  
143 not be levied by the board of supervisors of any county within a  
144 junior college district until the board of trustees of the  
145 district adopts annually, an order, by a sixty percent (60%)  
146 affirmative vote of the members of the board, that such minimum  
147 millage shall be levied by each county within the district.

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

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and  
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 21-25-23, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARDS OF TRUSTEES OF COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR  
3 COLLEGE TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH A MUNICIPALITY FOR THE  
4 PROVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES; TO AMEND SECTION 37-29-231,  
5 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARDS OF TRUSTEES OF  
6 COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGE, IN ITS DISCRETION, TO ENTER INTO AN  
7 INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY GOVERNING AUTHORITY WHERE THE  
8 COMMUNITY OR JUNIOR COLLEGE IS LOCATED, TO PROVIDE FIRE PROTECTION  
9 AND FIRST RESPONDER SERVICES TO THE MAIN CAMPUS OF THE COMMUNITY  
10 OR JUNIOR COLLEGE; TO PROVIDE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE  
11 COMMUNITY OR JUNIOR COLLEGE THE DISCRETION TO OFFSET THE COST OF  
12 THE SERVICES BY ASSESSING A STUDENT FEE EACH SEMESTER; TO AMEND  
13 SECTION 37-29-141, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY  
14 THERETO; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X (SIGNED)  
Scoggin

X (SIGNED)  
Boyd (19th)

X (SIGNED)  
Calvert

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)  
Boyd

X (SIGNED)  
DeLano

X (SIGNED)  
Butler