

REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

MR. PRESIDENT AND MR. SPEAKER:

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

S. B. No. 3016: Appropriation; Community and Junior Colleges Board - Support for community and junior colleges.

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

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

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

5 **SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
6 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State
7 General Fund not otherwise appropriated, for the operation and
8 support of the public community and junior colleges for the fiscal
9 year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....
10\$ 230,162,672.00.

11 **SECTION 2.** The following sum, or so much thereof as may be
12 necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State
13 Treasury to the credit of the special funds specified herein to
14 the Mississippi Community College Board for the operation and
15 support of the public community and junior colleges for the fiscal
16 year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....
17\$ 76,385,786.00.



18 **SECTION 3.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2 of this
19 act, Sixty-nine Million Seven Hundred Eighty-five Thousand Seven
20 Hundred Eighty-six Dollars (\$69,785,786.00) shall be derived from
21 funds in the Education Enhancement Fund deposited pursuant to
22 Sections 27-65-75 and 27-67-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, not
23 otherwise appropriated, for the operation and support of public
24 community and junior colleges.

25 **SECTION 4.** The funds provided in this section shall be
26 allocated for the aid and support of the public and community
27 junior colleges through the community college support funding
28 formula and shall be apportioned in accordance with the following
29 assigned weights:

	<u>Formula Section</u>	<u>FTE</u> <u>Formula</u>
30		
31		
32	(a) Aid to Colleges:	
33	Base	15% prior year
34		appropriation
35	Academic	1.0
36	Technical	1.0
37	(b) Career	1.0
38	(c) Associate Degree	
39	Nursing	1.19
40	(d) Associate Degree	
41	Allied Health	1.19



42 Academic, Technical, Career, Associate Degree Nursing and
43 Associate Degree Allied Health funds shall be disbursed on the
44 basis of prior year full-time equivalency (FTE) of hours generated
45 during the summer, fall and spring semesters for each public
46 community and junior college student actually enrolled and in
47 attendance the last day of the sixth week of each semester, or its
48 equivalent, counting only students who reside within the State of
49 Mississippi. However, associate degree nursing students who
50 reside outside the State of Mississippi may be counted for pay
51 purposes.

52 The Director of the Mississippi Community College Board, or
53 his designee, shall audit each public community and junior college
54 and shall determine who shall be counted in each college and shall
55 certify the number to the Mississippi Community College Board.

56 If, pending determination of the enrollment of students at
57 the public community and junior colleges entitled to participate
58 in this appropriation, as provided for in this section, the
59 Mississippi Community College Board shall find and determine that
60 any such public or community junior college does not have
61 sufficient funds on hand for payment of the necessary expenses of
62 its operation for the period commencing July 1, 2024, until
63 distribution of the funds appropriated hereby, then, in that
64 event, the Mississippi Community College Board is expressly
65 authorized to make an advance to any such public community or
66 junior college or colleges not having sufficient operating funds



67 for such period from the funds appropriated hereby; provided,
68 however, that the amount of any such advance to any one (1) public
69 community or junior college shall not exceed thirty-three percent
70 (33%) of the amount of state-appropriated funds received by such
71 public community or junior college during the preceding fiscal
72 year; and provided, further, that the amount of any such advance
73 shall be deducted from the pro rata part of the funds appropriated
74 hereby accruing to said public community or junior college when
75 enrollment has been ascertained and distribution of funds is made.

76 (a) Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this act, an
77 amount not to exceed One Hundred Sixty-nine Million Eight
78 Hundred Eighty-one Thousand Four Hundred Four Dollars
79 (\$169,881,404.00) is authorized for the aid and support of
80 the public community colleges to be distributed through
81 the community college support funding formula.

82 (b) Of the funds provided in Section 3 of this act,
83 Fifty-one Million Eight Hundred Eighty-four Thousand Nine
84 Hundred Forty-six Dollars (\$51,884,946.00), or so much as
85 may be necessary, shall be derived out of any money in the
86 State Treasury to the credit of the Education Enhancement
87 Fund and deposited pursuant to Sections 27-65-75 and
88 27-67-31, Mississippi Code of 1972. These funds are
89 authorized for the aid and support of the public community
90 colleges to be distributed through the community college
91 support funding formula.



92 **SECTION 5.** The following public community and junior
93 colleges which qualify shall participate in the funds provided
94 herein:

95 Coahoma Community College, Copiah-Lincoln Community College,
96 East Central Community College, East Mississippi Community
97 College, Hinds Community College, Holmes Community College,
98 Itawamba Community College, Jones County Junior College, Meridian
99 Community College, Mississippi Delta Community College,
100 Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Northeast Mississippi
101 Community College, Northwest Mississippi Community College, Pearl
102 River Community College, and Southwest Mississippi Community
103 College.

104 **SECTION 6.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this
105 act, an amount not to exceed Thirty Million Five Hundred
106 Ninety-four Thousand Three Hundred Thirty-six Dollars
107 (\$30,594,336.00) is authorized for the aid of the public community
108 and junior colleges to fund life and health insurance for all
109 employees of the public community and junior colleges.

110 The funds allocated in this section shall only be used to
111 participate in the State and School Employees' Life and Health
112 Insurance Plan and any funds appropriated in this section for this
113 purpose, which are not expended during the fiscal year shall be
114 carried forward for the same purposes during the next succeeding
115 fiscal year.



116 **SECTION 7.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2 of this
117 act, Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000.00) shall be derived
118 out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of the
119 Insurance Carryover Fund No. 3295, for the purpose of fully
120 funding life and health insurance through the State and School
121 Employees' Life and Health Insurance Plan for all qualified
122 community and junior college employees.

123 **SECTION 8.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this
124 act, an amount not to exceed Six Million Seven Hundred Fifty
125 Thousand Dollars (\$6,750,000.00) shall be used for the purpose of
126 Workforce and Economic Development Support, including the
127 operation of the Workforce Development Centers and Advanced
128 Training Centers, providing start-up costs for new career and
129 technical programs, and providing the necessary funding to replace
130 outdated and obsolete equipment for existing career and technical
131 programs at each of the public community and junior colleges.

132 **SECTION 9.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this
133 act, One Hundred Seventy-Nine Thousand Fifty Dollars (\$179,050.00)
134 shall be used for the purpose of defraying the cost of Sign
135 Language Interpreter Training at the public community and junior
136 colleges.

137 **SECTION 10.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 and
138 provided in Section 2 of this act, Ten Million Dollars
139 (\$10,000,000.00) shall be used by the Mississippi Community
140 College Board for the purpose of defraying the cost of the



141 Education Technology Program at the public community and junior
142 colleges and the Mississippi Community College Board. Seven
143 Million Ninety-nine Thousand One Hundred Sixty Dollars
144 (\$7,099,160.00) shall be derived from Section 1, and Two Million
145 Nine Hundred Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Dollars (\$2,900,840.00)
146 shall be derived from Section 3 of this act out of any money in
147 the State Treasury to the credit of the Education Enhancement Fund
148 and deposited pursuant to Sections 27-65-75 and 27-67-31,
149 Mississippi Code of 1972.

150 **SECTION 11.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this
151 act, Two Million Five Hundred Fifty-six Thousand Nine Hundred
152 Twenty-two Dollars (\$2,556,922.00) shall be used for the purpose
153 of defraying the cost of the Associate Degree Nursing and Allied
154 Health Programs.

155 **SECTION 12.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this
156 act, Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) shall be used for the
157 purpose of continuing the dropout recovery initiative based on a
158 successful program administered through the adult basic education
159 program with the Mississippi Community College Board. These funds
160 shall also be used for the purpose of enrolling low-skill adults
161 in career pathways that combine high school equivalency, skills
162 training and workforce credentials in an intensive program that
163 produces adults who can compete for jobs.

164 Of the funds provided in this section, one-half (1/2) shall
165 be allocated equally and the remaining one-half (1/2) shall be



166 allocated on the basis of the prior year headcount enrollment in
167 Adult Education, MIBEST or other career pathway programs.

168 The public community and junior colleges shall prepare and
169 make available to the Legislature and the Legislative Budget
170 Office a comprehensive report on the number of dropouts that have
171 enrolled in a High School Equivalency and/or career program for
172 each community and junior college during Fiscal Year 2024 on, or
173 before, August 1, 2025.

174 **SECTION 13.** Of the funds provided in Section 3 of this act,
175 Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00), or so much thereof as may be
176 necessary, shall be derived out of any money in the State Treasury
177 to the credit of the Education Enhancement Fund and deposited
178 pursuant to Sections 27-65-75 and 27-67-31, Mississippi Code of
179 1972. These funds shall be used for the Career and Technical
180 Advantage Program which will provide start-up costs for new career
181 and technical programs, expansion of existing career and technical
182 programs, and infrastructure for career and technical program
183 equipment, lab upgrades, and renovations to sustain the programs
184 at public community colleges. Fifteen percent (15%) of the funds
185 appropriated in this section shall be distributed evenly to each
186 community college. The remaining eighty-five percent (85%) of the
187 funds shall be distributed on the basis of prior year career and
188 technical full-time equivalency (FTE) hours generated during the
189 summer, fall, and spring semesters for each public community
190 college.



191 **SECTION 14.** In compliance with the "Mississippi Performance
 192 Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994," it is the intent of
 193 the Legislature that the funds provided herein shall be utilized
 194 in the most efficient and effective manner possible to achieve the
 195 intended mission of this agency. Based on the funding authorized,
 196 this agency shall make every effort to attain the targeted
 197 performance measures provided below:

198		FY2025
199	<u>Performance Measures</u>	<u>Target</u>
200	Instruction	
201	Number of Total Degrees Awarded per 100	
202	FTE Enrollment	32.13
203	Number of Associate Degrees Awarded per	
204	100 FTE Enrollment	17.36
205	Number of Associate of Applied Science	
206	Degrees Awarded per 100 FTE Enrollment	8.76
207	Number of Certificates Awarded per 100	
208	FTE Enrollment	12.80
209	Percent of First-Time Entering,	
210	Part-Time Degree- Seeking Students	
211	(Fall) who Earned 24 Credit Hours by the	
212	End of Year Two	18.01
213	Percent of First-Time Entering,	
214	Full-Time Degree-Seeking Students (Fall)	
215	who Earned 42 Credit Hours by the End	



216	of Year Two	48.54
217	Percent of Associate Degree Nursing and	
218	Practical Nursing Licensure Exam Pass	
219	Rates	94.31
220	Percent of Total Student Success, Which	
221	Includes Graduates, Transfers, and	
222	Retention (Those Still Enrolled)	71.22
223	Percent of Graduates	36.40
224	Percent of Transfers	21.01
225	Percent of Retention	8.06
226	Percent of Students Enrolled in Career/	
227	Technical and Health Science Graduates	23.50
228	Percent of In-State Job Placements of	
229	Career/ Technical and Health Science	
230	Graduates	98.91
231	Number of High School Equivalencies Awarded	2,600

232 A reporting of the degree to which the performance targets
233 set above have been or are being achieved shall be provided in the
234 agency's budget request submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget
235 Committee for Fiscal Year 2026.

236 **SECTION 15.** It is the intention of the Legislature that none
237 of the General Funds appropriated herein shall be expended for the
238 purpose of paying salaries, wages, and fringe benefits of any
239 public community and junior college employee who is serving as a
240 member of the State of Mississippi Legislature.



241 **SECTION 16.** A Mississippi Prepaid Affordable College Tuition
242 (MPACT) program beneficiary shall be considered a Mississippi
243 resident for the purposes of participating in this appropriation
244 regardless of the beneficiary's residence on the date of
245 enrollment, as set out in Section 37-155-5(d)(iii), Mississippi
246 Code of 1972.

247 **SECTION 17.** It is the intention of the Legislature that none
248 of the funds provided herein shall be used to pay certain
249 utilities for state-furnished housing for any employees. Such
250 utilities shall include electricity, natural gas, butane, propane,
251 cable and phone services. Where actual cost cannot be determined,
252 the agency shall be required to provide meters to be in compliance
253 with legislative intent. Such state-furnished housing shall
254 include single-family and multifamily residences but shall not
255 include any dormitory residences. Allowances for such utilities
256 shall be prohibited.

257 **SECTION 18.** It is the intention of the Legislature that
258 whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the
259 purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things
260 stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price,
261 quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind
262 shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to
263 the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are
264 made without competitive bids.



265 **SECTION 19.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
266 support of the community and junior colleges shall maintain
267 complete accounting and personnel records related to the
268 expenditure of all funds appropriated under this act and that such
269 records shall be in the same format and level of detail as
270 maintained for Fiscal Year 2024. It is further the intention of
271 the Legislature that the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year
272 2026 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee
273 in a format and level of detail comparable to the format and level
274 of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2025 budget request
275 process.

276 **SECTION 20.** It is the intention of the Legislature that the
277 funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with
278 Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency
279 shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their
280 appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally
281 or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for
282 actions contrary to this provision.

283 **SECTION 21.** The funds disbursed under the provisions of this
284 act shall be accounted for through the Mississippi Community
285 College Board. No part of the amount herein appropriated shall be
286 used by the Mississippi Community College Board for administrative
287 or other purposes except in the manner and to the extent
288 authorized in this act making an appropriation for the expenses of
289 the Mississippi Community College Board.



290 **SECTION 22.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 1 of this
 291 act, Eight Million Five Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars
 292 (\$8,520,000.00) is authorized for a two percent (2%) salary
 293 increase for full-time staff.

294 **SECTION 23.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 2 of this
 295 act, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is
 296 hereby appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury to the
 297 credit of the Capital Expense Fund, as created in Section
 298 27-103-303, Mississippi Code of 1972, and allocated in a manner as
 299 determined by the Treasurer's Office, to defray the expenses of
 300 the public community and junior colleges, acting through the
 301 Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management, for the
 302 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025.....
 303\$ 6,000,000.00.

304 This appropriation is made for the purpose of providing the
 305 funds necessary to authorize the expenditure of funds for
 306 construction and/or repair and renovation projects for the public
 307 community and junior colleges as allocated herein:

308	Coahoma Community College.....	\$ 194,909.00.
309	Copiah- Lincoln Community College.....	\$ 279,979.00.
310	East Central Community College.....	\$ 197,002.00.
311	East Mississippi Community College.....	\$ 316,194.00.
312	Hinds Community College.....	\$ 934,862.00.
313	Holmes Community College.....	\$ 425,386.00.
314	Itawamba Community College.....	\$ 475,108.00.



315	Jones Junior College.....	\$ 406,858.00.
316	Meridian Community College.....	\$ 242,818.00.
317	Mississippi Delta Community College.....	\$ 220,346.00.
318	Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.....	\$ 727,489.00.
319	Northeast Mississippi Community College.....	\$ 379,521.00.
320	Northwest Mississippi Community College.....	\$ 558,593.00.
321	Pearl River Community College.....	\$ 451,227.00.
322	Southwest Mississippi Community College.....	\$ 189,708.00.

323 **SECTION 24.** Of the funds appropriated in Section 3 of this
324 act, Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00), or so much as may be
325 necessary, shall be derived out of any money in the State Treasury
326 to the credit of the Education Enhancement Fund deposited pursuant
327 to Sections 27-65-75 and 27-67-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, to
328 defray the expenses of the public community and junior colleges,
329 acting through the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property
330 Management, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending
331 June 30, 2025.

332 This appropriation is made for the purpose of providing the
333 funds necessary to authorize the expenditure of funds for
334 construction and/or repair and renovation projects for the public
335 community and junior colleges as allocated herein:

336	Coahoma Community College.....	\$ 239,622.00.
337	Copiah- Lincoln Community College.....	\$ 276,944.00.
338	East Central Community College.....	\$ 254,375.00.
339	East Mississippi Community College.....	\$ 291,741.00.



340	Hinds Community College.....\$	495,327.00.
341	Holmes Community College.....\$	378,177.00.
342	Itawamba Community College.....\$	359,329.00.
343	Jones Junior College.....\$	338,594.00.
344	Meridian Community College.....\$	269,355.00.
345	Mississippi Delta Community College.....\$	245,370.00.
346	Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.....\$	482,189.00.
347	Northeast Mississippi Community College.....\$	294,398.00.
348	Northwest Mississippi Community College.....\$	437,844.00.
349	Pearl River Community College.....\$	391,506.00.
350	Southwest Mississippi Community College.....\$	245,229.00.

351 **SECTION 25.** The money herein appropriated shall be paid by
352 the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the
353 credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon
354 warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal
355 Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the
356 proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

357 **SECTION 26.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
358 and after July 1, 2024.

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

1 AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE AID AND SUPPORT OF THE
2 PUBLIC COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
3 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025.



CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE

X (SIGNED)

Hopson

X (SIGNED)

Frazier

X (SIGNED)

Parker

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE

X (SIGNED)

Oliver

X (SIGNED)

Read

X (SIGNED)

Scoggin

