

By: Senator(s) Boyd

To: Universities and
Colleges; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2527

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI RESIDENT PROMISE PROGRAM FOR
2 STUDENTS OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN THE STATE; TO SET ELIGIBILITY
3 AND OTHER QUALIFICATIONS FOR RECEIPT OF ASSISTANCE UNDER THE
4 PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE THAT AS A CONDITION FOR RENEWAL, A STUDENT
5 SHALL MAKE STEADY ACADEMIC PROGRESS TOWARD A CERTIFICATE OR DEGREE
6 AND HAVE A CUMULATIVE G.P.A. OF AT LEAST 2.50 ON A 4.0 SCALE; TO
7 PROVIDE THAT NO STUDENT MAY RECEIVE AN AWARD FOR MORE THAN THE
8 EQUIVALENT SEMESTERS OR QUARTERS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE ONE
9 CERTIFICATE OR ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM PER INSTITUTION; TO
10 PROVIDE THAT PROMISE GRANTS SHALL EQUAL THE FULL AMOUNT REMAINING
11 OF ANY TUITION AND REQUIRED FEES AFTER ALL OTHER STATE, FEDERAL,
12 INSTITUTIONAL, AND PRIVATE AID HAS BEEN APPLIED; TO SET CERTAIN
13 REQUIREMENTS TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE FROM THE PROGRAM;
14 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

16 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is established the Mississippi
17 Resident Promise Program for college freshman and sophomores to be
18 administered by the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial
19 Assistance Board established under Section 37-106-9, Mississippi
20 Code of 1972, which shall set the dates and deadlines for applying
21 for an award under this section. The board shall establish such
22 rules and regulations as it deems necessary and proper to carry
23 out the purposes and intent of this section. The program shall



24 include Mississippi Promise Grants (Promise Grants) for recent
25 high school graduates attending community colleges.

26 (2) To receive a Promise Grant, a student must meet the
27 following qualifications:

28 (a) Be a resident of the State of Mississippi.
29 Resident status for the purpose of receiving assistance under this
30 chapter shall be determined in the same manner as resident status
31 for tuition purposes in Sections 37-103-1 through 37-103-29, with
32 the exception of Section 37-103-17.

33 (b) Complete the Free Application for Federal Student
34 Aid (FAFSA) every year for which the student wishes to be
35 considered for aid by the deadline established by the board.

36 (c) Complete the Mississippi Aid Application (MAAPP)
37 every year for which the student wishes to be considered for aid
38 by the deadline established by the board.

39 (d) Be accepted for enrollment at any public community
40 or junior college located in Mississippi.

41 (3) The board shall approve Mississippi Promise Grants for
42 students who meet the following general requirements for initial
43 eligibility:

44 (a) Completion of a secondary education as follows:

45 (i) Graduation from high school verified by the
46 institution before disbursement of award with a minimum grade
47 point average of 2.5 calculated on a 4.0 scale after seven (7)



48 semesters as certified by the high school counselor or other
49 authorized school official on the application;

50 (ii) Attendance at a home education program during
51 grade levels 9 through 12;

52 (iii) Satisfactory completion of the High School
53 Equivalency Diploma; or

54 (iv) Successful completion of the International
55 Baccalaureate Program.

56 (b) Enroll full-time at any public community or junior
57 college located in Mississippi and approved by the board within
58 twelve (12) months of completion of secondary education program.

59 (4) Promise Grants shall equal the full amount remaining of
60 any tuition and required fees after all other state, federal,
61 institutional, and private aid has been applied.

62 (5) Eligibility for renewal of Promise Grants shall be
63 evaluated at the end of each semester, or term, of each academic
64 year. As a condition for renewal, a student shall:

65 (a) Make steady academic progress toward a certificate
66 or degree, as outlined in the school Satisfactory Academic
67 Progress Standards and certified by the institution's registrar.

68 (b) Maintain continuous, full-time enrollment for not
69 less than two (2) semesters or three (3) quarters in each
70 successive academic year, unless granted an exception for cause by
71 the administering board; examples of cause may include student
72 participation in a cooperative program, internship program, or



73 foreign study program. If a student fails to maintain continuous
74 enrollment, and is not granted an exception for cause by the
75 administering board, the student shall be ineligible to receive
76 the Promise Grant during the following semester or trimester or
77 term of the regular academic year.

78 (c) Have a cumulative grade point average of at least
79 2.50 calculated on a 4.0 scale at the end of each semester,
80 trimester, or term.

81 (6) No student may receive a Promise Grant for more than
82 four (4) semesters or the time required to complete one (1)
83 associate degree program, whichever is less.

84 (7) By accepting a Mississippi Resident Promise Grant, the
85 student is attesting to the accuracy, completeness, and
86 correctness of information provided to demonstrate the student's
87 eligibility. Falsification of such information provided to
88 demonstrate the student's eligibility shall result in the denial
89 of any pending grant and revocation of any award currently held to
90 the extent that no further payments shall be made. Any student
91 knowingly making false statements in order to receive a grant
92 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable, upon conviction
93 thereof, by a fine of up to Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00), a
94 prison sentence of up to one (1) year in the county jail, or both,
95 and shall be required to return all Mississippi Resident Promise
96 Grants wrongfully obtained.



97 (8) Payment of the Mississippi Resident Promise Grant shall
98 be made payable to the recipient and the educational institution
99 and mailed directly to the institution.

100 (9) In order for an institution to remain eligible for its
101 students to participate in the Mississippi Resident Promise Grant
102 Program, the institution shall comply with the following
103 requirements:

104 (a) A complete and accurate roster of the eligibility
105 status of each awarded student shall be made to the board for each
106 term, semester, or quarter of the academic year the student
107 receives a Mississippi Resident Promise Grant.

108 (b) The institution is required to make refunds to the
109 Mississippi Resident Promise Grant Fund for any funds which have
110 not been disbursed to the recipient, in the case of students who
111 have received a grant but who terminate enrollment during the
112 academic term, semester, or quarter of the academic year if an
113 institution's refund policies permit a student to receive a refund
114 in such instance. The recipient shall be responsible for the
115 refund of any funds which have been disbursed by the institution
116 of such instance.

117 (c) If a student drops below full-time status but does
118 not terminate all enrollment during the term, semester, or quarter
119 of the academic year, no refund will be required for that term.
120 However, that student is ineligible to receive the Mississippi



121 Resident Promise Grant during the following term, semester, or
122 quarter of the regular academic year.

123 (d) The board may conduct its own annual audits of any
124 institution participating in the Mississippi Resident Promise
125 Grant Program. The board may suspend or revoke an institution's
126 eligibility to receive future monies under the program if it finds
127 that the institution has not complied with the provisions of this
128 section. In determining a student's initial eligibility, the
129 number of prior semesters enrolled will not be counted against the
130 student.

131 (10) No student receiving a Mississippi Eminent Scholars
132 Grant as provided in Section 37-106-31 shall be eligible to
133 receive the Mississippi Resident Promise Grant pursuant to this
134 section unless he or she is eligible for such award after the
135 Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant has been considered by the
136 board when conducting an assessment of the financial resources
137 available to the student. In no case shall any student receive
138 any combination of student financial aid that would exceed the
139 cost of attendance.

140 (11) For purposes of this section, certificated shall mean,
141 but not be limited to, all postsecondary vocational programs in
142 eligible institutions approved by the board.

143 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
144 and after July 1, 2025.

