

House Amendments to Senate Bill No. 2518

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE:

THIS IS TO INFORM YOU THAT THE HOUSE HAS ADOPTED THE AMENDMENTS SET OUT BELOW:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

1 **AMEND** by striking lines 66 through 68 and inserting in lieu
2 thereof the following:

3 **"SECTION 5.** Section 31-11-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
4 amended as follows:

5 31-11-3. (1) The Department of Finance and Administration,
6 for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this chapter,
7 in addition to all other rights and powers granted by law, shall
8 have full power and authority to employ and compensate architects
9 or other employees necessary for the purpose of making
10 inspections, preparing plans and specifications, supervising the
11 erection of any buildings, and making any repairs or additions as
12 may be determined by the Department of Finance and Administration
13 to be necessary, pursuant to the rules and regulations of the
14 State Personnel Board. The department shall have entire control
15 and supervision of, and determine what, if any, buildings,
16 additions, repairs, demolitions or improvements are to be made
17 under the provisions of this chapter, subject to the regulations
18 adopted by the Public Procurement Review Board.

19 (2) The department shall have full power to erect buildings,
20 make repairs, additions or improvements, demolitions, to grant or

21 acquire easements or rights-of-way, and to buy materials, supplies
22 and equipment for any of the institutions or departments of the
23 state subject to the regulations adopted by the Public Procurement
24 Review Board. In addition to other powers conferred, the
25 department shall have full power and authority, as directed by the
26 Legislature, or when funds have been appropriated for its use for
27 these purposes, to:

28 (a) Build a state office building;

29 (b) Build suitable plants or buildings for the use and
30 housing of any state schools or institutions, including the
31 building of plants or buildings for new state schools or
32 institutions, as provided for by the Legislature;

33 (c) Provide state aid for the construction of school
34 buildings;

35 (d) Promote and develop the training of returned
36 veterans of the United States in all sorts of educational and
37 vocational learning to be supplied by the proper educational
38 institution of the State of Mississippi, and in so doing allocate
39 monies appropriated to it for these purposes to the Governor for
40 use by him in setting up, maintaining and operating an office and
41 employing a state director of on-the-job training for veterans and
42 the personnel necessary in carrying out Public Law No. 346 of the
43 United States;

44 (e) Build and equip a hospital and administration
45 building at the Mississippi State Penitentiary;

46 (f) Build and equip additional buildings and wards at
47 the Boswell Retardation Center;

48 (g) Construct a sewage disposal and treatment plant at
49 the Mississippi State Hospital, and in so doing acquire additional
50 land as may be necessary, and to exercise the right of eminent
51 domain in the acquisition of this land;

52 (h) Build and equip the Mississippi central market and
53 purchase or acquire by eminent domain, if necessary, any lands
54 needed for this purpose;

55 (i) Build and equip suitable facilities for a training
56 and employing center for the blind;

57 (j) Build and equip a gymnasium at Columbia Training
58 School;

59 (k) Approve or disapprove the expenditure of any money
60 appropriated by the Legislature when authorized by the bill making
61 the appropriation;

62 (l) Expend monies appropriated to it in paying the
63 state's part of the cost of any street paving;

64 (m) Sell and convey state lands when authorized by the
65 Legislature, cause said lands to be properly surveyed and platted,
66 execute all deeds or other legal instruments, and do any and all
67 other things required to effectively carry out the purpose and
68 intent of the Legislature. Any transaction which involves state
69 lands under the provisions of this paragraph shall be done in a
70 manner consistent with the provisions of Section 29-1-1;

71 (n) Collect and receive from educational institutions
72 of the State of Mississippi monies required to be paid by these
73 institutions to the state in carrying out any veterans'
74 educational programs;

75 (o) Purchase lands for building sites, or as additions
76 to building sites, for the erection of buildings and other
77 facilities which the department is authorized to erect, and
78 demolish and dispose of old buildings, when necessary for the
79 proper construction of new buildings. Any transaction which
80 involves state lands under the provisions of this paragraph shall
81 be done in a manner consistent with the provisions of Section
82 29-1-1;

83 (p) Obtain business property insurance with a
84 deductible of not less than One Hundred Thousand Dollars
85 (\$100,000.00) on state-owned buildings under the management and
86 control of the department; * * *

87 (q) In consultation with and approval by the Chairmen
88 of the Public Property Committees of the Senate and the House of
89 Representatives, enter into contracts for the purpose of providing
90 parking spaces for state employees who work in the Woolfolk
91 Building, the Carroll Gartin Justice Building or the Walter
92 Sillers Office Building * * *; and

93 (r) The department is hereby authorized to transfer up
94 to * * * Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00) of available bond
95 funds to each community college requesting to be exempt from
96 department control and supervision relating to the repair,

97 renovation and improvement of existing facilities owned by the
98 community colleges, including utility infrastructure projects;
99 heating and air conditioning systems; and the replacement of
100 furniture and equipment. The community colleges shall abide by
101 all applicable statutes related to the purchase of the repair,
102 renovation and improvement of such existing facilities.

103 (3) The department shall survey state-owned and
104 state-utilized buildings to establish an estimate of the costs of
105 architectural alterations, pursuant to the Americans With
106 Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 USCS, Section 12111 et seq. The
107 department shall establish priorities for making the identified
108 architectural alterations and shall make known to the Legislative
109 Budget Office and to the Legislature the required cost to
110 effectuate such alterations. To meet the requirements of this
111 section, the department shall use standards of accessibility that
112 are at least as stringent as any applicable federal requirements
113 and may consider:

114 (a) Federal minimum guidelines and requirements issued
115 by the United States Architectural and Transportation Barriers
116 Compliance Board and standards issued by other federal agencies;

117 (b) The criteria contained in the American Standard
118 Specifications for Making Buildings Accessible and Usable by the
119 Physically Handicapped and any amendments thereto as approved by
120 the American Standards Association, Incorporated (ANSI Standards);

121 (c) Design manuals;

122 (d) Applicable federal guidelines;

- 123 (e) Current literature in the field;
- 124 (f) Applicable safety standards; and
- 125 (g) Any applicable environmental impact statements.

126 (4) The department shall observe the provisions of Section
127 31-5-23 in letting contracts and shall use Mississippi products,
128 including paint, varnish and lacquer which contain as vehicles
129 tung oil and either ester gum or modified resin (with rosin as the
130 principal base of constituents), and turpentine shall be used as a
131 solvent or thinner, where these products are available at a cost
132 not to exceed the cost of products grown, produced, prepared, made
133 or manufactured outside of the State of Mississippi.

134 (5) The department shall have authority to accept grants,
135 loans or donations from the United States government or from any
136 other sources for the purpose of matching funds in carrying out
137 the provisions of this chapter.

138 (6) The department shall build a wheelchair ramp at the War
139 Memorial Building which complies with all applicable federal laws,
140 regulations and specifications regarding wheelchair ramps.

141 (7) The department shall review and preapprove all
142 architectural or engineering service contracts entered into by any
143 state agency, institution, commission, board or authority,
144 regardless of the source of funding used to defray the costs of
145 the construction or renovation project, for which services are to
146 be obtained to ensure compliance with purchasing regulations and
147 to confirm that the contracts are procured by a competitive
148 qualification-based selection process except where such

149 appointment is for an emergency project or for a continuation of a
150 previous appointment for a directly related project. The
151 provisions of this subsection (7) shall not apply to:

152 (a) Any architectural or engineering contract fully
153 paid for by self-generated funds of any of the state institutions
154 of higher learning;

155 (b) Any architectural or engineering contract that is
156 self-administered at a state institution of higher learning as
157 provided under Section 27-104-7(2) (b) or 37-101-15(m);

158 (c) Community college projects that are fully funded
159 from local funds or other nonstate sources which are outside the
160 Department of Finance and Administration's appropriations or as
161 directed by the Legislature;

162 (d) Any contract for the construction of buildings or
163 other facilities, including contracts for architectural and
164 engineering services, which are funded in whole or in part by
165 general obligation bonds or other state source funds appropriated
166 in lieu of general obligations bonds of the State of Mississippi,
167 at Mississippi public community and junior colleges when the local
168 community or junior college board of trustees determines that it
169 is in the best interest of the community or junior college to
170 procure and administer all such contracts.

171 (* * *e) Any construction or design projects of the
172 State Military Department that are fully or partially funded from
173 federal funds or other nonstate sources; and

174 (* * *f) Any project of the State Department of
175 Transportation.

176 (8) (a) The department shall have the authority to obtain
177 annually from the state institutions of higher learning, the state
178 community colleges and junior colleges, the Department of Mental
179 Health, the Department of Corrections and the Department of
180 Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks information on all renovation and
181 repair expenditures for buildings under their operation and
182 control, including duties, responsibilities and costs of any
183 architect or engineer hired by any such institutions, and shall
184 annually report the same to the Legislative Budget Office, the
185 Chairman of the House Public Property Committee and the Chairman
186 of the Senate Public Property Committee before September 1.

187 (b) All state agencies, departments and institutions
188 are required to cooperate with the Department of Finance and
189 Administration in carrying out the provisions of this subsection.

190 (c) Expenditures shall not include those amounts
191 expended for janitorial, landscaping or administrative support,
192 but shall include expenditures from both state and nonstate
193 sources.

194 (d) Expenditures shall not include amounts expended by
195 the department on behalf of state agencies, departments and
196 institutions through the Department of Finance and Administration
197 administered contracts, but shall include amounts transferred to
198 the Department of Finance and Administration for support of such
199 contracts.

200 (9) As an alternative to other methods of awarding contracts
201 as prescribed by law, the department may elect to use the method
202 of contracting for construction projects set out in Sections
203 31-7-13.1 and 31-7-13.2; however, the design-build method of
204 construction contracting authorized under Section 31-7-13.1 may be
205 used only when the Legislature has specifically required or
206 authorized the use of this method in the legislation authorizing a
207 project.

208 (10) The department shall have the authority, for the
209 purposes of carrying out the provisions of this chapter, and in
210 addition to all other rights and powers granted by law, to create
211 and maintain a list of suspended and debarred contractors and
212 subcontractors. Consistent with this authority, the department
213 may adopt regulations governing the suspension or debarment of
214 contractors and subcontractors, which regulations shall be subject
215 to the approval of the Public Procurement Review Board. A
216 suspended or debarred contractor or subcontractor shall be
217 disqualified from consideration for contracts with the department
218 during the suspension or debarment period in accordance with the
219 department's regulations.

220 (11) This section shall not apply to the Mississippi State
221 Port Authority.

222 **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
223 and after July 1, 2025."

224 **AMEND further the title after the semicolon on line 12 by**

225 **inserting the following:**

226 "TO AMEND SECTION 31-11-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO INCREASE
227 THE AMOUNT OF AVAILABLE BOND FUNDS THAT DFA IS AUTHORIZED TO
228 TRANSFER TO EACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE REQUESTING TO BE EXEMPT DFA
229 CONTROL AND SUPERVISION FOR REPAIR, RENOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF
230 EXISTING FACILITIES OWNED BY THE COMMUNITY COLLEGES UP TO
231 \$10,000,000.00; TO EXEMPT CONTRACTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND
232 MAINTENANCE OF BUILDING AND OTHER FACILITIES ON THE CAMPUSES OF
233 PUBLIC COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES, WHICH ARE FUNDED IN WHOLE OR
234 IN PART BY GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OR OTHER STATE SOURCE FUNDS,
235 FROM THE REQUIREMENT FOR PREAPPROVAL BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
236 AND ADMINISTRATION FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICE
237 CONTRACTS;"

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AMENDMENT NO. 2

1 **Amend** after line 65 by inserting the following:

2 **"SECTION 5.** (1) The Board of Trustees of State Institutions
3 of Higher Learning, acting on behalf of Mississippi Valley State
4 University, is authorized to enter into a long-term lease(s) of
5 all or any portion of certain real property under its control and
6 possession. The property described in this section shall be
7 leased for a period not to exceed a term of forty-five (45) years
8 with two (2) additional options for renewal periods not to exceed
9 ten (10) years and one (1) additional option for a renewal period
10 not to exceed five (5) years, for the purposes of developing
11 faculty and staff housing for the benefit of the university. The
12 property to be leased shall be more particularly described as
13 follows:

14 All of Lots 2 and 3 as shown on the map of Bransford's
15 Itta Bena Plantation on record in Map Book 3 at page 47
16 in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Leflore County,
17 Mississippi and also 33.33 acres off the East side of
18 Lot 1 as shown by said map more particularly described
19 as follows: Beginning at a concrete post situated at
20 the northeast corner of said Lot 1, run thence West
21 569.1 feet along the northern boundary of said Lot 1;
22 thence run South 2421.9 feet to the South line of said
23 Lot 1 at the center line of Gin Bayou; thence run with
24 said lot line along the center of said bayou S 63
25 degrees 47 minutes East 63.4 feet; thence S 68 degrees
26 fourteen minutes East 295.8 feet; thence S 58 degrees 08
27 minutes East 279.7 feet to the Southeast corner of Lot
28 1; thence run North 2707.3 feet along the eastern
29 boundary of Lot 1 to the point of beginning enclosing a
30 tract with an area of 33.33 acres, of which 0.91 acres
31 is in a public road.

32 The above described lands have a total area of 452.05
33 acres inclusive of 2.05 acres in a public road all of
34 which lies within Section 13, T. 19 N., R. 2 W and
35 Section 18, T. 19 N., R. 1 W., Choctaw Meridian, in
36 Leflore County, Mississippi; subject to easements for
37 gas pipe line, granted to the Mississippi Gas & Electric
38 Company and Electric Power line, as shown in Book 64 at

39 page 111 of the land deed records in the office of the
40 Chancery Clerk of said County of Leflore.

41 (2) The lease(s) and any amendments to the lease(s) of all
42 or any portion of the real property authorized for lease(s) under
43 subsection (1) of this section shall be subject to the approval of
44 the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning.
45 The approved lease(s) and any amendments to the lease(s) shall not
46 be cancelled by successor boards based on the binding successor
47 doctrine.

48 **SECTION 6.** (1) The Board of Trustees of State Institutions
49 of Higher Learning, acting on behalf of Mississippi Valley State
50 University, is authorized to enter into a long-term sublease(s) of
51 all or any portion of the real property described in Section 1 of
52 this act which is under its control and possession for a period
53 not to exceed a term of forty-five (45) years with two (2)
54 additional options for renewal periods not to exceed ten (10)
55 years and one (1) additional option for a renewal period not to
56 exceed five (5) years.

57 (2) The sublease(s) and any amendments to the sublease(s) of
58 all or any portion of the real property described in Section 1 of
59 this act shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees
60 of State Institutions of Higher Learning. The approved
61 sublease(s) and any amendments to the sublease(s) shall not be
62 cancelled by successor boards based on the binding successor
63 doctrine.

64 **SECTION 7.** If all or any portion of the property described
65 in Section 1 of this act is leased, Mississippi Valley State
66 University, with the approval of the Board of Trustees of State
67 Institutions of Higher Learning, is authorized to negotiate all
68 aspects of any lease(s) or sublease(s) and any terms and ancillary
69 agreements pertaining to any lease(s) or sublease(s) as may be
70 reasonably necessary to effectuate the intent and purposes of this
71 section and to ensure a fair and equitable return to the state.

72 **SECTION 8.** (1) All proceeds derived or received from the
73 agreements and lease(s) entered into under Sections 5 and 6 of
74 this act shall be deposited into a special fund and expended only
75 for the use and benefit of Mississippi Valley State University.

76 (2) At the end of the lease term provided in this act, the
77 property leased under the authority provided herein and all
78 improvements to such property shall revert to Mississippi Valley
79 State University.

80 (3) The State of Mississippi shall retain all mineral rights
81 to the real property leased under Section 5 of this act.

82 (4) The Department of Finance and Administration is
83 authorized to correct any discrepancies in the property described
84 in Section 5 of this act."

85 **Further, amend** by renumbering succeeding sections
86 accordingly.

87 **Further, amend** the title on line 12, by inserting the
88 following after the semicolon:
89 "TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF
90 HIGHER LEARNING, ACTING ON BEHALF OF MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE
91 UNIVERSITY TO ENTER INTO A LONG-TERM LEASE(S) OF ALL OR ANY
92 PORTION OF REAL PROPERTY UNDER ITS CONTROL AND POSSESSION FOR THE

93 PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING FACULTY AND STAFF HOUSING FOR THE BENEFIT OF
94 THE UNIVERSITY;".

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AMENDMENT NO. 3

1 **AMEND** after line 65 by inserting in lieu thereof the
2 following:

3 **SECTION 5.** Sections 5 through 9 of this act shall be known
4 and cited as the "Mississippi Connecting Career and Technical
5 Education Employability (MissCATEE) Program," for which
6 implementation of shall be subject to legislative appropriation.

7 **SECTION 6.** (1) The Legislature finds that establishing
8 attainable workforce goals reflect Mississippi's commitment to
9 creating a pipeline of skilled workers to address workforce
10 shortages and build a sustainable economic future begins with
11 investing in career and technical education (CTE) programs that
12 meet the needs of employers and communities. Mississippi's
13 workforce development goals center around equipping its citizens
14 with the skills necessary to meet the demands of high-growth,
15 high-demand industries. These goals, include the following:

16 (a) Expanded career and technical education (CTE)
17 opportunities, which:

18 (i) Increase access to CTE programs at community
19 colleges to prepare students for technical and skilled trade
20 careers;

21 (ii) Focus on industry-recognized certifications
22 and associate degrees aligned with state workforce needs; and

23 (iii) Promote dual-enrollment opportunities for
24 high school students to participate in CTE pathways;

25 (b) Align education and training with emphasis on
26 Mississippi's workforce development sector strategies or priority
27 occupations, as identified by Accelerate MS, targeting industries
28 with workforce shortages. High-priority sectors include:

29 (i) Advanced manufacturing: addressing the
30 growing need for skilled machinists, engineers and technicians;

31 (ii) Healthcare: expanding the pipeline for
32 nurses, allied health professionals and paramedics;

33 (iii) Information technology: preparing workers
34 for roles in cybersecurity, software development and IT support;

35 (iv) Transportation and logistics: training
36 workers for commercial driving, warehousing and supply chain
37 management; and

38 (v) Energy and construction: focusing on renewable
39 energy technologies, traditional utilities and skilled trades like
40 electricians and plumbers;

41 (c) Address workforce shortages in rural areas to:

42 (i) Prioritize investments in CTE programs to
43 serve underserved rural communities where skilled labor gaps are
44 most acute; and

45 (ii) Develop programs to retain graduates within
46 the state, with special incentives for those who commit to working
47 in rural areas;

48 (d) Promote lifelong learning and upskilling that:

49 (i) Encourage adults aged eighteen (18) and older
50 to re-enter the workforce or enhance their skills through CTE
51 programs; and

52 (ii) Provide pathways for individuals without
53 postsecondary education to earn certifications or degrees,
54 fostering upward economic mobility;

55 (e) Support economic resilience through public-private
56 partnerships by:

57 (i) Collaborating with industries to identify
58 workforce needs and design CTE curricula that address specific
59 skill gaps; and

60 (ii) Incentivizing employers to participate in
61 apprenticeship programs, internships and on-the-job training for
62 students;

63 (f) Increase access to funding and support services
64 that:

65 (i) Offer financial aid programs, like
66 tuition-free grants or scholarships, to eliminate barriers to CTE
67 participation; and

68 (ii) Provide wraparound support services such as
69 childcare, transportation and academic counseling to ensure
70 student success; and

71 (g) Focus on data-driven workforce solutions that:

72 (i) Use labor market data to identify emerging
73 industries and predict workforce needs; and

74 (ii) Regularly update sector strategies or
75 priority occupations, as identified by Accelerate MS, and CTE
76 offerings to reflect changes in Mississippi's economic landscape.

77 (2) Therefore, the intent of the Legislature, subject to
78 appropriation for the purposes provided herein is:

79 (a) To provide funding to the Office of Workforce
80 Development to establish a scholarship program for the purposes
81 outlined herein.

82 (b) To provide tuition-free access for recent high
83 school graduates to community colleges with accredited CTE
84 programs that are aligned with Mississippi's workforce sector
85 strategies or priority occupations, as identified by Accelerate
86 MS, which result in a degree credential or industry certification
87 in an identified industry sector, ensuring a pipeline of skilled
88 workers to meet the state's economic demands.

89 (c) To gauge the effectiveness of this program by
90 gathering data related to the participation and employment
91 outcomes in order to replicate successful efforts in future
92 workforce development programs.

93 **SECTION 7.** (1) There is established the Mississippi
94 Connecting Career and Technical Education Employability
95 (MissCATEE) Program, which shall be directed by the Office of
96 Workforce Development (Accelerate MS) for the purpose of providing
97 tuition-free community college attendance for eligible recipients
98 for career and technical education (CTE) and training for
99 associate degree credential or industry certification in

100 high-wage, high-demand industries with documented workforce
101 shortages prioritized by the office. The implementation of this
102 program shall be subject to the availability of funds appropriated
103 by the Legislature.

104 (2) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
105 shall have the meanings as defined herein unless the context
106 clearly indicates otherwise:

107 (a) "Accelerate MS" or "office" means the Office of
108 Workforce Development.

109 (b) "Eligible institution" means any community college,
110 local workforce development area or other eligible recipient of
111 funding under this section.

112 (c) "Eligible program" means a career and technical
113 (CTE) program administered at an eligible institution and approved
114 by the Office of Workforce Development (Accelerate MS), which is
115 aligned with identified workforce sector strategies or priority
116 occupations, and identified on the state's Eligible Training
117 Provider List (ETPL).

118 (d) "Eligible recipient" means a person who:

119 (i) Has been a resident of Mississippi for at
120 least one (1) year prior to enrollment in an eligible program at
121 an eligible institution and continues to physically reside herein;

122 (ii) Is a United States citizen, lawful permanent
123 resident, or noncitizen eligible under Title IV regulations for
124 student aid eligibility;

- 125 (iii) Has a high school diploma, GED or
126 equivalent;
- 127 (iv) Is enrolled full-time in an eligible CTE
128 program at a Mississippi community college within twelve (12)
129 months of completion of a secondary education program or
130 dually-enrolled in an eligible CTE program through his or her high
131 school in accordance with Section 37-15-38;
- 132 (v) Has completed a Free Application for Federal
133 Student Aid (FAFSA);
- 134 (vi) Maintains satisfactory academic progress as
135 defined by the administering institution upon enrollment;
- 136 (vii) Has not previously earned an associate or
137 bachelor's degree. A student currently or previously enrolled in
138 a community or junior college may be eligible if he or she changes
139 his or her major to an identified high-demand industry sector or
140 occupation, provided he or she has not exhausted state financial
141 aid limitations; and
- 142 (viii) Agrees to remain in the State of
143 Mississippi and work in the industry sector in which the degree
144 credential or industry certification was earned for such a period
145 of time as prescribed by policies promulgated by the Office of
146 Workforce Development for each identified sector strategy or
147 priority occupation.
- 148 (e) "High-wage, high-demand industry" means those
149 industries paying above Mississippi's median annual income and

150 prioritized by the office across the eight (8) workforce
151 ecosystems.

152 (f) "Sector strategy" means the workforce
153 needs of an industry within a regional labor market that has been
154 collaboratively identified by a partnership of employers within a
155 critical industry that brings together education, economic
156 development, workforce systems and community organizations to
157 collaboratively provide job-readiness training (including
158 professional skills development), occupational skills training and
159 support services.

160 (3) The Mississippi Office of State Financial Aid shall
161 serve as fiscal agent in administering the funds, and shall
162 disburse appropriate funds to eligible institutions on a semester
163 basis upon receipt of verification of eligible recipients'
164 enrollment in an eligible program.

165 (4) Subject to appropriation by the Legislature, allocations
166 to eligible recipients shall be awarded to the eligible
167 institution of enrollment by the Mississippi Office of State
168 Financial Aid through an application process.

169 (5) The Mississippi Office of State Financial Aid shall:

170 (a) Inform each recipient of the amount his or her
171 portion of the program funds available for use, dependent on
172 enrollment as a full-time or part-time student; and

173 (b) Develop regulations and procedures to govern the
174 administration of the program.

175 (6) The Mississippi Office of State Financial Aid may use a
176 minimal amount of funds allocated for this section for the
177 administration of the program, to be approved by the State
178 Workforce Investment Board Executive Committee.

179 **SECTION 8.** (1) The district office of each Local Workforce
180 Development Area shall enter into a contract agreement with each
181 eligible recipient of funds under the program employing existing
182 processes for certifying participants.

183 (2) The Office of Workforce Development shall establish the
184 priorities and provide such directives along with the necessary
185 funds to the Local Workforce Development Areas, which shall
186 administer the distribution of these funds. Of the funds
187 appropriated under the provisions of this act, the office shall
188 allocate no less than three percent (3%) and no more than five
189 percent (5%) to the Local Workforce Development Areas for the
190 administration of these provisions.

191 (3) Accelerate MS shall annually provide a list of eligible
192 programs based on priority sectors and occupations and program
193 recipients to the Mississippi Office of State Financial Aid. The
194 Mississippi Office of State Financial Aid shall collaborate with
195 Accelerate MS to track fund recipients under the program through
196 the requisite time prescribed by the Office of Workforce
197 Development for each identified sector strategy and priority
198 occupation.

199 **SECTION 9.** (1) The Office of Workforce Development shall
200 submit an annual report on the program to the Governor, the

201 Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
202 the Chair of the House Workforce Development Committee, the Chair
203 of the Senate Economic and Workforce Development Committee and the
204 Chairperson of the House and Senate Universities and Colleges
205 Committees. The report shall contain a detailed explanation of
206 how the funds appropriated for the program were awarded and how
207 many students have participated in the grant program and their
208 employment outcomes. The report shall also include a list of
209 high-priority industry sectors, with corresponding Classification
210 of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes and occupations eligible for
211 funding under the program, as determined annually by the Office of
212 Workforce Development.

213 (2) Any high-priority industry sector or occupation
214 identified in the report with the corresponding CIP code must
215 remain eligible for at least four (4) academic years before being
216 removed from the list to ensure students have adequate time to
217 complete their credential or degree.

218 **AMEND further the title after the semicolon on line 12 by**
219 **inserting the following:**

220 "TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
221 EMPLOYABILITY (MISSCATEE) PROGRAM, WHICH SHALL BE DIRECTED BY THE
222 OFFICE OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING
223 TUITION-FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE ATTENDANCE FOR ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS
224 FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) AND TRAINING LEADING TO
225 ASSOCIATE DEGREE CREDENTIALS OR INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS IN
226 HIGH-WAGE, HIGH-DEMAND INDUSTRIES WITH DOCUMENTED WORKFORCE
227 SHORTAGES PRIORITIZED BY THE OFFICE; TO PROVIDE FOR DEFINITIONS;
228 TO PROVIDE THAT THE MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF STATE FINANCIAL AID
229 SHALL SERVE AS FISCAL AGENT IN ADMINISTERING THE FUNDS; TO

230 PRESCRIBE THE REQUIREMENTS TO ESTABLISH ELIGIBILITY AND TO REMAIN
231 ELIGIBLE FOR THE RECEIPT OF PROGRAM FUNDS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE
232 RECIPIENT OF A GRANT SHALL COMMIT TO SERVING IN THE INDUSTRY
233 SECTOR FOR WHICH HIS DEGREE CREDENTIAL OR INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION
234 WAS GRANTED FOR SUCH A PERIOD OF TIME IN THE STATE AS DETERMINED
235 BY THE OFFICE OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT; TO PROVIDE THE REPORTING
236 REQUIREMENTS;"

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AMENDMENT NO. 4

1 **AMEND** after line 65 by inserting the following:

2 **"SECTION 5.** Section 37-106-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
3 amended as follows:

4 37-106-39. (1) There is established the Mississippi Law
5 Enforcement Officers * * *, Firefighters and First Responders
6 Scholarship.

7 (2) Except as provided in this section, if any Mississippi
8 law enforcement officer, full-time firefighter or volunteer
9 firefighter or first responder shall suffer or has suffered fatal
10 injuries or wounds or become permanently and totally disabled as a
11 result of injuries or wounds which occurred in the performance of
12 the official and appointed duties of his or her office, his or her
13 spouse, child or children shall be entitled to an eight-semester
14 scholarship without cost, exclusive of books, food, school
15 supplies, materials and dues or fees for extracurricular
16 activities, at any state-supported college or university of his or
17 her choice within this state.

18 (a) No child shall be entitled to receive benefits
19 during any semester or quarter when said child has reached the age
20 of twenty-three (23) years on the first day of said semester or

21 quarter. However, any child who has begun the process of
22 acquiring college credits under the provisions of this section
23 prior to attaining the age of twenty-three (23) years shall be
24 entitled to the full eight-semester scholarship if his or her
25 college instruction was interrupted for any reason.

26 (b) Scholarship benefits shall not accrue hereunder to
27 any person if the wounds or injuries suffered by any law
28 enforcement officer, full-time firefighter or volunteer
29 firefighter or first responder are self-inflicted or if his death
30 is self-induced.

31 (3) Eligibility for renewal of the scholarship shall be
32 evaluated each academic year at the end of each semester or term.
33 As a condition for renewal, a student shall:

34 (a) Make steady academic progress toward a certificate
35 or degree, as outlined in the school Satisfactory Academic
36 Progress Standards and certified by the institution's registrar;
37 and

38 (b) Have a cumulative grade point average of at least
39 2.5 calculated on a 4.0 scale at the end of each academic year.

40 (4) For the purposes of this section, these words and
41 phrases shall be defined as follows:

42 (a) "Mississippi law enforcement officers" shall be
43 defined as follows:

44 (i) "State highway patrolmen" means all law
45 enforcement officers, regardless of department or bureau, of the
46 Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol.

47 (ii) "Municipal police officers" means all law
48 enforcement officers of any municipality who are regular duty
49 personnel on full-time status, auxiliary or reserve officers, or
50 those serving on a temporary or part-time status.

51 (iii) "Sheriffs" and "deputy sheriffs" means all
52 law enforcement officers of full-time duty status on a regular
53 basis serving the sheriff's department of any county, deputy
54 sheriffs who are engaged in administrative or civil duty,
55 auxiliary or reserve deputies, or deputy sheriffs serving in a
56 temporary capacity or part-time basis.

57 (iv) "Constables" means all duly elected
58 constables of any beat of any county within the state while
59 actually engaged in the performance of their duties concerning the
60 criminal laws of the county and state.

61 (v) "Conservation officers" means all duly
62 appointed game wardens employed by the State of Mississippi on a
63 full-time duty status while actually engaged in the performance of
64 their duties concerning the game laws of the state.

65 (vi) "Alcoholic Beverage Control Division agents
66 and inspectors" means all duly appointed agents and investigators
67 of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Division of the Mississippi
68 Department of Revenue on a full-time duty status while actually
69 engaged in the performance of their duties concerning the
70 alcoholic beverage control laws of the state.

71 (vii) Members of the National Guard serving as
72 peace officers when ordered to state emergency duty under

73 authority vested in the Governor by the Constitution and laws of
74 the state.

75 (viii) "Tax commission scales enforcement
76 officers" means all duly appointed scales enforcement officers of
77 the Mississippi Department of Revenue on a full-time duty status
78 while actually engaged in the performance of their duties.

79 (ix) Duly appointed agents of the Mississippi
80 Bureau of Narcotics.

81 (x) Correctional, probation and parole officers
82 employed by the Mississippi Department of Corrections.

83 (b) "Mississippi full-time firefighters" shall be
84 defined as all firefighters employed by any subdivision of the
85 State of Mississippi on a full-time duty status while actually
86 engaged in the performance of their duties, and volunteer
87 firefighters shall be defined as any volunteer firefighter
88 registered with the State of Mississippi or a political
89 subdivision thereof on a volunteer firefighting status while
90 actually engaged in the performance of firefighting duties.

91 (c) "Child" or "children" means natural children,
92 adopted children or stepchildren.

93 (d) "Spouse" means a person who was, at the time of the
94 death of the decedent, legally married to a Mississippi law
95 enforcement officer, full-time firefighter, or volunteer
96 firefighter, or in the case of a law enforcement officer,
97 full-time firefighter or volunteer firefighter who suffered fatal

98 injuries or wounds, prior to or after March 13, 1990, who has not
99 remarried.

100 (e) "First responder" means state and local law
101 enforcement personnel, fire department personnel, emergency
102 medical personnel, emergency management personnel and public works
103 personnel.

104 (5) (a) Any law enforcement officer, full-time firefighter
105 or volunteer firefighter or first responder claiming permanent and
106 total disability shall be qualified or disqualified for a claim
107 under this section based on examination and review of the
108 following four (4) documents:

109 (i) A letter from the officer's * * *,
110 firefighter's or first responder's former supervisor or employer
111 stating whether the officer * * *, firefighter or first responder
112 is disabled as a result of injuries or wounds that occurred in the
113 performance of the official duties of his office;

114 (ii) A statement from the officer's * * *,
115 firefighter's or first responder's physician stating whether the
116 officer * * *, firefighter or first responder is disabled and the
117 reason for that disability;

118 (iii) Verification from the Public Employees'
119 Retirement System; and

120 (iv) Verification from the Social Security
121 Administration.

122 (b) If the law enforcement officer, full-time
123 firefighter or volunteer firefighter or first responder suffered

124 fatal injuries or wounds, a claim under this section shall be
125 based on examination and review of the following two (2)
126 documents:

127 (i) A letter from the officer's * * *,
128 firefighter's or first responder's former supervisor or employer
129 stating whether he suffered fatal injuries in the performance of
130 the official duties of his office; and

131 (ii) A death certificate.

132 (6) Any applicant qualified and desiring a scholarship under
133 the provisions of this section shall apply in writing to the
134 board. The board shall make inquiries into each application and
135 shall make the investigation as it deems proper to establish and
136 validate all claims before a scholarship is granted."

137 **AMEND title by inserting the following after the semicolon on**
138 **line 12:**

139 "TO AMEND SECTION 37-106-39, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
140 PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE SPOUSES AND CHILDREN OF FIRST
141 RESPONDERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY OR WHO BECOME PERMANENTLY
142 AND TOTALLY DISABLED AS THE RESULT OF INJURIES OR WOUNDS WHICH
143 OCCURRED WHILE IN THE LINE OF DUTY;"

HR26\SB2518A.4J

Andrew Ketchings
Clerk of the House of Representatives