

By: Representatives Lamar, Hawkins

To: Universities and
Colleges

HOUSE BILL NO. 1284

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONSOLIDATION OF
2 CERTAIN COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGE DISTRICTS, EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
3 2027, THEREBY REDUCING THE NUMBER OF COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGE
4 DISTRICTS FROM 15 TO TWELVE 12; TO REQUIRE THE CONSOLIDATION OF
5 THE COAHOMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT INTO THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA
6 COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT, WITH COAHOMA OPERATING AS THE "COAHOMA
7 CAMPUS" OF MISSISSIPPI DELTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND WITH THE
8 CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES TO BE LOCATED IN CLARKSDALE,
9 MISSISSIPPI; TO REQUIRE THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE MERIDIAN
10 COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT INTO THE EAST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY
11 COLLEGE DISTRICT, WITH MERIDIAN TO OPERATE AS THE "MERIDIAN
12 CAMPUS" OF EAST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND WITH THE CENTRAL
13 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES TO BE LOCATED IN SCOOBA, MISSISSIPPI; TO
14 REQUIRE THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE SOUTHWEST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY
15 COLLEGE DISTRICT INTO THE COPIAH-LINCOLN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
16 DISTRICT, WITH SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAMPUS TO OPERATE AS
17 THE "SUMMIT CAMPUS" OF COPIAH-LINCOLN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND WITH
18 THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES TO BE LOCATED IN WESSON,
19 MISSISSIPPI; TO PROVIDE FOR SUCCESSOR BOARDS OF TRUSTEES FOR EACH
20 CONSOLIDATED DISTRICT, INCLUDING THE COMPOSITION, APPOINTING
21 AUTHORITIES, INITIAL STAGGERED TERMS, SUCCESSOR TERMS,
22 QUALIFICATIONS AND FILLING OF VACANCIES; TO REQUIRE THE
23 MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD TO PROVIDE NOTICE AND
24 INSTRUCTIONS TO AFFECTED DISTRICTS ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2026,
25 AND TO ADMINISTRATIVELY CONSOLIDATE ANY DISTRICT THAT FAILS TO
26 VOLUNTARILY COMPLY BY JULY 1, 2027; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ABOLITION
27 OF FORMER BOARDS OF TRUSTEES AND THE TRANSFER OF ALL REAL AND
28 PERSONAL PROPERTY TO THE SUCCESSOR CONSOLIDATED DISTRICTS; TO
29 AUTHORIZE THE SUCCESSOR BOARDS TO EMPLOY PERSONNEL AND ESTABLISH
30 CONTRACTS FOR THE 2027-2028 SCHOOL YEAR AND THEREAFTER AND TO
31 PREPARE AND APPROVE DISTRICT BUDGETS; TO PROVIDE LIMITED APPEAL
32 RIGHTS FROM CERTAIN SUCCESSOR BOARD ORDERS IN THE SAME MANNER AS
33 APPEALS FROM COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS UNDER SECTION 11-51-75;
34 TO PROVIDE THAT NO COLLEGE OR FACILITY SHALL BE REQUIRED TO CLOSE

35 EXCEPT UNNEEDED ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES IN ABOLISHED DISTRICTS; TO
36 AUTHORIZE RULES AND REGULATIONS BY THE MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY
37 COLLEGE BOARD TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATION; TO AMEND SECTIONS
38 37-29-31, 37-29-65, 37-29-451, 37-29-453, 37-29-455, 37-29-457,
39 37-29-459, 37-29-461, 37-29-463, 37-29-465, 37-29-467, 37-29-469,
40 37-29-471, 37-29-501, 37-29-503, 37-29-505, 37-29-507, 37-29-509,
41 37-29-511, 37-29-513, 37-29-515, 37-29-551, 37-29-553, 37-29-555,
42 37-29-557, 37-29-559, 37-29-561, 37-29-563, 37-29-565, 37-29-567,
43 37-29-569 AND 37-29-571, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY
44 TO THE PRECEDING PROVISIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

46 **SECTION 1.** (1) In the State of Mississippi, in which are
47 located, as of January 1, 2026, fifteen (15) community and junior
48 college districts, there shall be an administrative consolidation
49 of six (6) of those districts, effectively reducing the number to
50 twelve (12) such districts, which are further identified and
51 enumerated, accordingly in subsection (2) of this section and
52 Section 37-29-31.

53 (2) For purposes of this act the consolidation shall impact
54 the following community college districts, with regard to the
55 composition of boards of trustees, administrative leadership and
56 the transfers of duties, responsibilities and property. Effective
57 on July 1, 2027:

58 (a) The Mississippi Delta Community College District
59 shall be consolidated with the Coahoma Community College District,
60 and shall officially be known as the Mississippi Delta Community
61 College District. The central administrative offices shall be
62 located in Clarksdale, Mississippi, and the college's
63 administrative leadership shall consist of those officers serving
64 in said capacities for Coahoma Community College as that district

65 existed on July 1, 2026. At that time, Coahoma Community College
66 shall be known as the Coahoma Campus of Mississippi Delta
67 Community College. The board of trustees for the newly
68 consolidated Mississippi Delta Community College District shall
69 consist of seventeen (17) members, with two (2) members appointed
70 by the county board of supervisors of each county comprising the
71 district as prescribed in Section 37-29-31, and one (1) member
72 appointed by the members of the board of trustees. Once
73 appointed, the new board of trustees shall determine the initial
74 terms of office for each member ranging from (1) to five (5)
75 years. Thereafter, all members shall be appointed for a
76 designated term of five (5) years in order to prevent the term
77 expiration of more than one (1) member of any one (1) county in
78 any one (1) year. The members appointed by the county boards of
79 supervisors shall be appointed in accordance with the
80 qualifications established in Section 37-29-65(6). The member
81 appointed by the board of trustees shall alternate terms between
82 Bolivar, Coahoma and Washington Counties, The first
83 board-appointed member shall be appointed from Coahoma County, and
84 succeeded by an appointee from Washington and then Bolivar
85 Counties;

86 (b) The East Mississippi Community College District
87 shall be consolidated with the Meridian Community College
88 District, and shall officially be known as the East Mississippi
89 Community College District. The central administrative offices



90 shall be located in Scooba, Mississippi, and the college's
91 administrative leadership shall consist of those officers serving
92 in said capacities for East Mississippi Community College as that
93 district existed on July 1, 2026. At that time, Meridian
94 Community College shall be known as the Meridian Campus of East
95 Mississippi Community College. The board of trustees for the
96 newly consolidated East Mississippi Community College District
97 shall consist of fourteen (14) members, comprised of the two (2)
98 members appointed by the county board of supervisors of each
99 county comprising the district as prescribed in Section 37-29-31
100 and serving on June 1, 2026, each of whom shall continue to serve
101 until the natural expiration of their appointment term, and two
102 (2) members appointed by the City Council of the City of Meridian,
103 whose terms of office shall begin on July 1, 2027. Once
104 appointed, the board shall determine the initial terms of office
105 for each member appointed by the City Council of the City of
106 Meridian as two (2) or four (4) years. Thereafter, all members
107 shall be appointed for a designated term of five (5) years in
108 order to prevent the term expiration of more than one (1) member
109 of any one (1) county in any one (1) year. Members appointed by
110 the city council and the county boards of supervisors shall be
111 appointed in accordance with the qualifications established in
112 Section 37-29-65(6); and

113 (c) The Copiah-Lincoln Community College District shall
114 be consolidated with the Southwest Mississippi Community College

115 District, and shall officially be known as the Copiah-Lincoln
116 Community College District. The central administrative offices
117 shall be located in Wesson, Mississippi, and the college's
118 administrative leadership shall consist of those officers serving
119 in said capacities for Copiah-Lincoln Community College as that
120 district existed on July 1, 2026. At that time, Southwest
121 Community College shall be known as the Summit Campus of
122 Copiah-Lincoln Community College. The board of trustees for the
123 newly consolidated Copiah-Lincoln Community College District shall
124 consist of twenty-seven (27) members, with three (3) members
125 appointed by each of the county board of supervisors for Adams,
126 Copiah, Lincoln, Pike and Simpson Counties, and two (2) members
127 appointed by each of the county board of supervisors for Amite,
128 Franklin, Jefferson, Lawrence, Walthall and Wilkinson, whose terms
129 of office shall begin on July 1, 2027. Once appointed, those
130 counties having three (3) members, the board shall determine the
131 initial terms of office for each member as one (1), three (3) or
132 five (5) years. Once appointed, those counties having two (2)
133 members, the board shall determine the initial terms of office for
134 each member as two (2) or four (4) years. Thereafter, all members
135 shall be appointed for a designated term of five (5) years.
136 Members shall be appointed in accordance with the qualifications
137 established in Section 37-29-65(6).

138 (d) All vacancies shall be filled for unexpired terms
139 by appointment by a majority vote of the original appointing
140 governing authority.

141 (3) (a) On or before December 31, 2026, the Mississippi
142 Community College Board shall serve the boards of trustees of each
143 community college district scheduled for consolidation with notice
144 and instructions regarding the timetable for action to be taken to
145 comply with the administrative consolidation required in this
146 section. The Mississippi Community College Board shall provide
147 for the administrative consolidation of those community college
148 districts identified in subsection (2) of this section on or
149 before July 1, 2027. The Mississippi Community College Board
150 shall declare that the territory embraced by counties forming each
151 consolidated community college district shall be the boundary
152 lines for the territory of those and shall spread a legal
153 description of the new community college districts on the minutes
154 of its January 2027 meeting and shall serve the applicable county
155 boards of supervisors with an adequate legal description of these
156 new boundaries.



163 three (3) consecutive weeks and after having given notice of
164 publication.

165 (c) Any community college district affected by the
166 required administrative consolidation in the community college
167 districts identified in subsection (2) of this section that does
168 not voluntarily consolidate as ordered by the Mississippi
169 Community College Board shall be administratively consolidated by
170 the Mississippi Community College Board, to be effective on July
171 1, 2027. The Mississippi Community College Board shall promptly
172 move on its own motion to administratively consolidate a community
173 college district which does not voluntarily consolidate in order
174 to enable the affected community college districts to reasonably
175 accomplish the resulting administrative consolidation by July 1,
176 2027. The affected community college districts shall comply with
177 any consolidation order issued by the Mississippi Community
178 College Board on or before July 1, 2027.

179 (4) (a) On July 1, 2027, following the consolidation of the
180 community college districts identified in subsection (2) of this
181 section, the former boards of trustees of those community college
182 districts shall be abolished. All real and personal property
183 which is owned or titled in the name of the community college
184 district located in such former community college districts shall
185 be transferred to the new community college district to which it
186 has been consolidated.



187 (b) The new boards of trustees of the consolidated
188 community college districts shall be responsible for establishing
189 the contracts for administrators, instructors, clerical and
190 administrative staff personnel for the 2027-2028 school year and
191 each school year thereafter.

192 (c) The presidents of the colleges with each community
193 college district may recommend for employment, with approval by
194 the boards of trustees, vice presidents of colleges and campuses
195 for the district, and shall employ as many such individuals to
196 administer the daily operations of such colleges and campuses. It
197 shall be the responsibility of the successor board of trustees to
198 prepare and approve the budget of the new consolidated community
199 college district, and the successor board of trustees may use
200 staff from the former community college district with which it has
201 been consolidated to prepare the budget. Any proposed order of
202 the Mississippi Community College Board directing the transfer of
203 the assets, real or personal property of an affected community
204 college district in the county, shall be final and conclusive for
205 the purposes of the transfer of property required by such
206 administrative consolidation.

207 (d) Any person or community college district aggrieved
208 by an order of the successor newly selected board of trustees of
209 the Copiah County Community college district pursuant to the
210 required administrative consolidation may appeal therefrom within
211 ten (10) days from the date of the adjournment of the meeting at



212 which such order is entered. The appeal shall be taken in the
213 same manner as appeals are taken from judgments or decisions of
214 the board of supervisors as provided in Section 11-51-75, the
215 provisions of which shall be fully applicable to appeals taken
216 hereunder. The board of trustees of the newly community college
217 district against whom the grievance is made shall not pass upon or
218 approve or disapprove any such order until the time for an appeal
219 therefrom has expired, nor shall the board pass upon or approve or
220 disapprove any such order from which an appeal is taken until said
221 appeal has been finally determined.

222 (5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require
223 the closing of any college or facility, unless the facility is an
224 unneeded administrative office located within a community college
225 district which has been abolished under the provisions of this
226 section. The Mississippi Community College Board shall promulgate
227 rules and regulations to facilitate the administrative
228 consolidation of the community college districts pursuant to this
229 section.

230 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-29-31, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
231 amended as follows:

232 37-29-31. (1) There are hereby created the following
233 community or junior college districts comprising the entire
234 counties therein named and having boundaries coinciding with the
235 external boundaries thereof, each of which shall be separate
236 juristic entities and bodies politic and corporate:

237 (a) East Central * * * Community College District shall
238 be comprised of the counties of Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Scott and
239 Winston.

240 (b) East Mississippi * * * Community College District
241 shall be comprised of the counties of Clay, Kemper, Lauderdale,
242 Lowndes, Noxubee and Oktibbeha.

243 (c) Hinds * * * Community College District shall be
244 comprised of the counties of Hinds, Rankin, Warren and Claiborne.

245 (d) Holmes * * * Community College District shall be
246 comprised of the counties of Attala, Carroll, Choctaw, Grenada,
247 Holmes, Madison, Montgomery, Webster and Yazoo.

248 (e) Itawamba * * * Community College District shall be
249 comprised of the counties of Chickasaw, Itawamba, Lee, Monroe and
250 Pontotoc.

251 (f) Jones County Junior College District shall be
252 comprised of the counties of Clarke, Covington, Greene, Jasper,
253 Jones, Perry, Smith and Wayne.

254 (g) * * * Coahoma Community College District shall be
255 comprised of the counties of Bolivar, Coahoma, Humphreys,
256 Issaquena, Leflore, Sharkey, Sunflower and Washington.

260 (i) Northwest * * * Community College District shall be
261 comprised of the counties of Benton, Calhoun, DeSoto, Lafayette,



262 Marshall, Panola, Quitman, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tunica and
263 Yalobusha.

264 (j) Pearl River Junior College District shall be
265 comprised of the counties of Forrest, Hancock, Jefferson Davis,
266 Lamar, Marion and Pearl River.

267 (k) * * * Copiah-Lincoln College District shall be
268 comprised of the counties of Adams, Amite, Copiah, Franklin,
269 Jefferson, Lawrence, Lincoln, Pike, Simpson, Walthall and
270 Wilkinson.

271 (j) Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College shall be
272 comprised of the counties of George, Harrison, Jackson and Stone.

273 (2) The boards of supervisor of each county belonging to a
274 community college district, shall only provide the amount of any
275 millage levied for the support and maintenance of the community
276 college district to which the county is assigned such county under
277 Section 37-29-141. No county shall contribute to more than one
278 (1) community college district.

279 **SECTION 3.** Section 37-29-65, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
280 amended as follows:

281 37-29-65. (1) Except as provided in this section and in
282 Sections 37-29-409, 37-29-457 and 37-29-505, there shall be five
283 (5) trustees from each county of the community/junior college
284 district which originally entered into and gave financial aid in
285 establishing the community/junior college. On June 30, 1992, the
286 offices of the six (6) trustees from each of the original counties



287 in the Northwest Community College District shall stand vacated.
288 The board of supervisors of those respective counties shall
289 appoint two (2) members on July 1, 1992, to serve full terms of
290 office as provided in this section. The board of supervisors of
291 those respective counties shall appoint one (1) member who is a
292 qualified elector from each supervisors district to serve as a
293 member, either of which may be the county superintendent of
294 education if he or she resides in a respective supervisors
295 district. Counties which subsequent to the establishment of the
296 community/junior college joined the district shall have only one
297 (1) trustee. However, the board of trustees so constituted, by
298 appropriate resolution, may enlarge its number to six (6) trustees
299 from each county. The board of trustees shall also be authorized
300 within its discretion to reduce its number to two (2) trustees at
301 large from each county. In any case in which there is an equal
302 number of trustees the board of trustees may appoint another
303 person to membership.

304 (2) The county superintendent, if appointed by the county
305 board of supervisors, may, in his discretion, choose not to serve
306 as a member of such board of trustees. Such decision not to serve
307 shall be in writing and entered on the minutes of the board of
308 trustees of the community/junior college district. The county
309 board of supervisors of any county whose county superintendent of
310 education appointed under the authority of this section, declines
311 the appointment or resigns, pursuant to this subsection (2), shall



312 fill the vacancy caused by such resignation by appointing a member
313 who is a qualified elector of the county at large in accordance
314 with subsection (6) of this section. No county superintendent
315 whose community college district is located within the East
316 Mississippi Community College District shall serve on the board of
317 trustees for that community college district.

318 (3) From and after * * * July 1, 2027, the Board of Trustees
319 of the East Mississippi Community College District shall consist
320 of * * * fourteen (14) members. The appointing authorities shall
321 appoint a new board of trustees as follows: Clay County shall be
322 entitled to two (2) members, Kemper County shall be entitled to
323 two (2) members, Lauderdale County shall be entitled to * * * four
324 (4) members, two of whom shall be residents of the incorporated
325 limits of the City of Meridian appointed by the city council,
326 Lowndes County shall be entitled to two (2) members, Noxubee
327 County shall be entitled to two (2) members and Oktibbeha County
328 shall be entitled to two (2) members. * * * Members of the Board
329 of Trustees of the East Mississippi Community College
330 District * * * on the board on July 1, 2026, shall continue to
331 serve until the natural expiration of their appointment term. The
332 two (2) additional appointees from Lauderdale County, representing
333 the incorporated limits of the City of Meridian shall be appointed
334 for a term of five (5) years.

335 (4) * * * From and after July 1, 2027, the Board of Trustees
336 of the Mississippi Delta Community College District shall consist



337 of seventeen (17) members. The appointing authorities shall
338 appoint a new board of trustees as follows: Bolivar County shall
339 be entitled to two (2) members, Coahoma County shall be entitled
340 to two (2) members, Humphreys County shall be entitled to two (2)
341 members, Issaquena County shall be entitled to two (2) members,
342 Leflore County shall be entitled to two (2) members, Sharkey
343 County shall be entitled to two (2) members, Sunflower County
344 shall be entitled to two (2) members and Washington County shall
345 be entitled to two (2) members. The newly appointed board of
346 trustees of the Mississippi Delta Community College District
347 shall appoint one (1) member on an alternating basis from Bolivar,
348 Coahoma and Washington Counties for a term of five (5) years. The
349 first alternating appointee shall be from Coahoma County, and
350 succeeded by an appointee from Washington and then Bolivar
351 Counties.

352 (5) Except as otherwise provided in Section 1, the terms of
353 office shall be five (5) years * * *. Where the board chooses or
354 is required by statute to reduce its number, the board shall
355 specify the expiration dates of such terms of office in order to
356 prevent the retirement of more than one (1) member of any one (1)
357 county in any one (1) year.

358 (6) The board of supervisors shall elect the requisite
359 number of discreet persons of good moral character, sufficient
360 education and experience, and of proven interest in public
361 education, who are qualified electors of the county, as trustees



362 of the community/junior college; and annually thereafter the board
363 of supervisors in like manner shall fill vacancies. All trustees
364 so appointed shall be listed in the minutes of the board of
365 supervisors and their appointment shall be certified by the
366 chancery clerk to the president of the community/junior college.

367 (7) Each community/junior college trustee may be paid, out
368 of community/junior college funds, a per diem as authorized in
369 Section 25-3-69, * * * per meeting of said board and, in addition
370 thereto, the mileage authorized under Section 25-3-41, * * * per
371 mile in coming to and returning from said meeting, calculated upon
372 the customary and normally traveled route from the home of such
373 trustee to the campus of said community/junior college. Such
374 allowance of per diem and mileage shall not, however, be allowed
375 for more than fifteen (15) meetings for any one (1) fiscal year
376 and shall only be paid for meetings actually attended by such
377 trustees.

378 (8) The provisions of this section, other than those
379 provisions pertaining to per diem compensation and travel
380 allowances for community/junior college trustees, shall not apply
381 to any existing publicly operated community/junior college, lying
382 in and operated by a county bordering on the Mississippi River,
383 and the community/junior college trustees of such community/junior
384 college shall be appointed and confirmed as heretofore.

385 (9) No county superintendent of education, by virtue of his
386 or her office, shall be automatically placed on the board of



387 trustees for any community/junior college district to which this
388 section applies. * * * However, if the county board of
389 supervisors, in making an appointment to the community/junior
390 college district board of trustees, chooses to appoint the county
391 superintendent of education at the expiration of the term of * * *
392 a member, the superintendent may serve, unless otherwise
393 disqualified.

394 **SECTION 4.** Section 37-29-451, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
395 amended as follows:

396 37-29-451. There is hereby created the Copiah-Lincoln * * *
397 Community College District comprised of the territory lying within
398 Adams, Amite, Copiah, Franklin, Jefferson, Lawrence,
399 Lincoln * * *, Pike, Simpson, Walthall and Wilkinson Counties and
400 having boundaries coinciding with the external boundaries thereof.
401 The said district shall be and is hereby constituted a legal
402 political governmental subdivision and a body corporate. The
403 board of trustees of said district, with the consent of the
404 Mississippi Community College Board, is hereby empowered to change
405 the name of the district.

406 **SECTION 5.** Section 37-29-453, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
407 amended as follows:

408 37-29-453. The Copiah-Lincoln * * * Community College
409 District shall be under the executive direction of a president
410 elected by the board of trustees of said district for a term not
411 to exceed four (4) years.



412 **SECTION 6.** Section 37-29-455, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
413 amended as follows:

414 37-29-455. The president of the * * * community college
415 shall have the power to recommend to the trustees all teachers to
416 be employed; and he may remove or suspend any member of the
417 faculty subject to the approval of the trustees. He shall be the
418 general manager of all fiscal and administrative affairs of the
419 district with full authority to select, direct, employ and
420 discharge any and all employees other than teachers; however, the
421 board may make provisions and establish policies for leave for
422 faculty members and other key personnel.

423 The president shall have the authority, subject to the
424 provisions of Sections 37-29-451 through 37-29-471 and the
425 approval of the trustees, to arrange and survey courses of study,
426 fix schedules, and establish and enforce rules and discipline for
427 the governing of teachers and students. He shall be the general
428 custodian of the property of the district.

429 **SECTION 7.** Section 37-29-457, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
430 amended as follows:

431 37-29-457. (1) From and after July 1, 2027, when the
432 consolidation of the Southwest Community College District into the
433 Copiah-Lincoln Community College District is effectuated as
434 required under Section 1 of this act, the operation and control of
435 the Copiah-Lincoln * * * Community College District shall be
436 vested in a board of trustees representing the * * * eleven (11)



437 counties lying within the district. The said board shall consist
438 of * * * twenty-seven (27) members to be chosen as follows:

439 (a) Copiah County shall be entitled to * * * three (3)
440 members who shall be elected and serve according to Section 1(2)
441 of this act and the required qualifications of Section
442 37-29-65(6) * * *;

443 (b) Lincoln County shall be entitled to * * * three (3)
444 members who shall be elected and serve according to Section 1(2)
445 of this act and the required qualification of Section
446 37-29-65(6) * * *;

447 (c) Lawrence County shall be entitled to * * * two (2)
448 members who shall be elected and serve according to Section 1(2)
449 of this act and the required qualifications of Section
450 37-29-65(6) * * *;

451 (d) Franklin County shall be entitled to * * * two (2)
452 members who shall be elected and serve according to Section 1(2)
453 of this act and the required qualifications of Section
454 37-29-65(6) * * *;

455 (e) Simpson County shall be entitled to * * * three (3)
456 members who shall be elected and serve according to Section 1(2)
457 of this act and the required qualifications of Section
458 37-29-65(6) * * *;

459 (f) Jefferson County shall be entitled to * * * two (2)
460 members who shall be elected and serve according to Section 1(2)



461 of this act and the required qualifications of Section
462 37-29-65(6) * * *;
463 (g) Adams County shall be entitled to * * * three (3)
464 members who shall be elected * * * and serve according to Section
465 1(2) of this act and the required qualifications of Section
466 37-29-65(6);
467 (h) Amite County shall be entitled to two (2) members
468 who shall be elected and serve according to Section 1(2) of this
469 act and the required qualifications of Section 37-29-65(6);
470 (i) Pike County shall be entitled to three (3) members
471 who shall be elected and serve according to Section 1(2) of this
472 act and the required qualifications of Section 37-29-65(6);
473 (j) Walthall County shall be entitled to two (2)
474 members who shall be elected and serve according to Section 1(2)
475 of this act and the required qualifications of Section
476 37-29-65(6); and
477 (k) Wilkinson County shall be entitled to two (2)
478 members who shall be elected and serve according to Section 1(2)
479 of this act and the required qualifications of Section
480 37-29-65(6).
481 * * * As prescribed in Section 1 of this act, once appointed
482 from those counties having three (3) members, the board shall
483 determine the initial terms of office for each member as one (1),
484 three (3) or five (5) years. Once appointed, those counties
485 having two (2) members, the board shall determine the initial



486 terms of office for each member as two (2) or four (4) years.
487 Thereafter, all members shall be appointed for a designated term
488 of five (5) years. Members shall be appointed in accordance with
489 the qualifications established in Section 37-29-65(6).

490 * * *

491 (2) * * * As prescribed in Section 1 of this act, once
492 appointed from those counties having three (3) members, the board
493 shall determine the initial terms of office for each member as one
494 (1), three (3) or five (5) years. Once appointed, those counties
495 having two (2) members, the board shall determine the initial
496 terms of office for each member as two (2) or four (4) years.
497 Thereafter, all members shall be appointed for a designated term
498 of five (5) years. Members shall be appointed in accordance with
499 the qualifications established in Section 37-29-65(6).

500 **SECTION 8.** Section 37-29-459, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
501 amended as follows:

502 37-29-459. The President and the Board of Trustees of the
503 Copiah-Lincoln * * * Community College District shall have the
504 powers to do all things necessary for the successful operation of
505 said district and the campuses located therein.

506 The several colleges of the district shall be under the
507 direction of the board of trustees and the president. The board
508 of trustees shall, by resolution or order, provide for the
509 government, maintenance and operation of each campus of the
510 district.



511 The President and the Board of Trustees of the
512 Copiah-Lincoln * * * Community College District shall have the
513 same powers as the presidents and trustees of other
514 community/junior colleges in the State of Mississippi.

515 The delineation and enumeration of the powers and purposes
516 set out in Sections 37-29-451 through 37-29-471 shall be deemed to
517 be supplemental and additional and shall not be construed to
518 restrict the powers of the governing authorities of the district
519 or of any college or campus located therein so as to deny any of
520 the rights, privileges and powers enjoyed by other
521 community/junior colleges and community/junior college districts
522 in the State of Mississippi.

523 The said Copiah-Lincoln * * * Community College District
524 shall remain subject to the jurisdiction and control of the
525 Mississippi Community College Board as now established or as the
526 same may be hereafter changed by law, and shall be subject to all
527 rules and regulations and all statutory limitations which are now
528 in effect or may hereafter be imposed, except as the same may be
529 in direct conflict with the provisions of Sections 37-29-451
530 through 37-29-471.

531 **SECTION 9.** Section 37-29-461, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
532 amended as follows:

533 37-29-461. There shall be * * * four (4) campuses in the
534 Copiah-Lincoln * * * Community College District:

535 (a) One (1) located in or near Natchez to be known as
536 the Natchez Campus * * *;
537 (b) One (1) to located in or near Wesson to be known as
538 the Copiah-Lincoln Campus;
539 (c) One (1) located in or near Mendenhall to be known
540 as the Simpson County Center; and
541 (d) One (1) located in or near Summit to be known as
542 the Summit Campus.

543 **SECTION 10.** Section 37-29-463, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
544 amended as follows:

545 37-29-463. From and after July 1, 2027, when the
546 consolidation of the Southwest Community College District into the
547 Copiah-Lincoln Community College District is effectuated as
548 required under Section 1 of this act, the board of trustees of the
549 Copiah-Lincoln * * * Community College District shall each year,
550 on or before June 15, prepare a budget which shall contain a
551 detailed estimate of the revenues and expenses anticipated for the
552 ensuing year for general operation and maintenance, and shall set
553 forth the reasonable requirements for anticipated needs for
554 capital outlays for land, buildings, initial equipment for new
555 buildings and major repairs, a reasonable accumulation for such
556 purposes being hereby expressly authorized.

557 **SECTION 11.** Section 37-29-465, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
558 amended as follows:

559 37-29-465. The board of trustees of the Copiah-Lincoln * * *
560 Community College District shall have the authority to purchase
561 property, make capital improvements, and lease or use private or
562 public facilities at either the Copiah-Lincoln, Summit or Natchez
563 Campuses or the Simpson County Center, in the discretion of the
564 board.

565 **SECTION 12.** Section 37-29-467, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
566 amended as follows:

567 37-29-467. The Copiah-Lincoln * * * Community College
568 District is charged with the responsibility for providing
569 preprofessional courses, liberal arts, technical, vocational and
570 adult education courses, and shall undertake to provide the same
571 as conveniently as is possible to the residents of the district,
572 and to this end the board of trustees is authorized and empowered
573 to transport such students as, in its discretion, should be
574 transported in the best interest of the district.

575 **SECTION 13.** Section 37-29-469, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
576 amended as follows:

577 37-29-469. The board of trustees of the Copiah-Lincoln * * *
578 Community College District shall have the general borrowing and
579 bonding authority provided in Sections 37-29-101 through
580 37-29-127. The said board of trustees shall have the taxation
581 authority provided in Sections 37-29-141 through 37-29-145.

582 **SECTION 14.** Section 37-29-471, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
583 amended as follows:



584 37-29-471. All of the property belonging to the board of
585 trustees of Copiah-Lincoln * * * Community College and all of the
586 property belonging to any or all of the counties, prior to and as
587 of the effective date hereof, cooperating in the
588 Copiah-Lincoln * * * Community College or the agricultural high
589 school * * * community college located at Wesson, Mississippi, or
590 the campus in Adams County, Mississippi, and utilized or held for
591 the present or future use and benefit of said * * * community
592 college and/or agricultural high school * * * community college,
593 shall be and the same is hereby transferred to and vested in the
594 Copiah-Lincoln * * * Community College District as created by
595 Sections 37-29-451 through 37-29-471.

596 **SECTION 15.** Section 37-29-501, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
597 amended as follows:

598 37-29-501. (1) There is hereby created a community/junior
599 college district comprised of the territory lying within the
600 Meridian Municipal Separate Community college district and having
601 boundaries coinciding with the external boundaries thereof. The
602 name of the said community/junior college district shall be the
603 Meridian * * * Community College District and the said district
604 shall be and the same is hereby constituted a legal political
605 governmental subdivision and a body corporate.

606 (2) From and after July 1, 2027, when the consolidation of
607 the Meridian Community College District into the East Mississippi
608 Community College District is effectuated as required under



609 Section 1 of this act, the Meridian Community College District
610 shall be dissolved, and this section shall stand repealed.

611 **SECTION 16.** Section 37-29-503, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
612 amended as follows:

613 37-29-503. From and after July 1, 2027, when the
614 consolidation of the Meridian Community College District into the
615 East Mississippi Community College District is effectuated as
616 required under Section 1 of this act, all of the property owned by
617 the Meridian Municipal Separate Community college district
618 utilized by Meridian * * * Community College as of September 1,
619 1979, shall be and the same is hereby transferred to and vested in
620 the board of trustees of the * * * East Central Community College
621 District and their successors in office for the use and benefit of
622 the Meridian Campus of East Mississippi Community College.

623 **SECTION 17.** Section 37-29-505, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
624 amended as follows:

625 37-29-505. From and after July 1, 2027, when the
626 consolidation of the Meridian Community College District into the
627 East Mississippi Community College District is effectuated as
628 required under Section 1 of this act, the control and operation of
629 the Meridian * * * Community College District shall be vested
630 in * * * the board of trustees * * * of the East Mississippi
631 Community College District. The board of trustees of the
632 Meridian * * * Community College District * * * shall be dissolved
633 on June 30, 2027, and two (2) new members appointed by the City



634 Council of the City of Meridian shall begin their terms of service
635 on the board of trustees for the East Mississippi Community
636 College District on July 1, 2027, in accordance with the terms
637 prescribed in Section 1(2) of this act, and thereafter all
638 appointments for representation on the East Mississippi Community
639 College District Board of Trustees shall be for a term of five (5)
640 years. Trustees * * * shall be appointed by a majority vote of
641 the full membership of the city council of the City of Meridian at
642 the first meeting of the council held in the month of * * * June
643 of each year, and the term of office of each trustee so appointed
644 shall commence on * * * July 1 immediately following * * *. All
645 vacancies shall be filled for unexpired terms by appointment by
646 majority vote of the full membership of the city council.

647 **SECTION 18.** Section 37-29-507, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
648 amended as follows:

649 37-29-507. (1) The Board of Trustees of the Meridian * * *
650 Community College District shall have the power to do all things
651 necessary for the successful operation of the district; and, the
652 duties of such board shall be the general government of the
653 district and the direction of the administration thereof.

654 (2) The Meridian * * * Community College District shall have
655 all the powers of other * * * community colleges and * * *
656 community college districts in the State of Mississippi; and, the
657 delineation and enumeration of the powers and purposes set out in
658 Sections 37-29-501 through 37-29-515 shall not be construed to



659 restrict the powers of the governing authorities of the district
660 so as to deny to the district any of the rights, privileges and
661 powers enjoyed by other * * * community colleges and * * *
662 community college districts in the State of Mississippi.

663 (3) The Meridian * * * Community College District shall
664 remain subject to the jurisdiction and control of the Mississippi
665 Community College Board as now established or as the same may be
666 hereafter changed by law and shall be subject to all rules and
667 regulations and all statutory limitations which are now in effect
668 or may hereafter be imposed, except as the same may be in direct
669 conflict with the provisions of Sections 37-29-501 through
670 37-29-515.

671 (4) From and after July 1, 2027, when the consolidation of
672 the Meridian Community College District into the East Mississippi
673 Community College District is effectuated as required under
674 Section 1 of this act, the Meridian Community College District
675 shall be dissolved, and this section shall stand repealed.

676 **SECTION 19.** Section 37-29-509, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
677 amended as follows:

678 37-29-509. (1) The Meridian * * * Community College
679 District shall be under the executive direction of a president
680 elected by the board of trustees of such district.

681 (2) The president of the community college shall be general
682 manager of all fiscal and administrative affairs of the district
683 with full authority to select, employ, direct and discharge any

684 and all employees other than faculty. He shall have the power to
685 recommend to the board of trustees all faculty to be employed, and
686 he may remove or suspend any member of the faculty subject to the
687 approval of the board of trustees. The president shall have the
688 authority, subject to the approval of the board of trustees, to
689 arrange and survey courses of study, fix schedules and establish
690 and enforce rules and discipline for the governing of faculty and
691 students. He shall be the general custodian of the property of
692 the district.

693 (3) From and after July 1, 2027, when the consolidation of
694 the Meridian Community College District into the East Mississippi
695 Community College District is effectuated as required under
696 Section 1 of this act, the Meridian Community College District
697 shall be dissolved, and this section shall stand repealed.

698 **SECTION 20.** Section 37-29-511, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
699 amended as follows:

700 37-29-511. (1) The board of trustees of the Meridian * * *
701 Community College District shall on or before the twenty-fifth day
702 of June each year prepare and file the annual budget of the
703 district. The budget shall contain a detailed estimate of the
704 revenues and expenses anticipated for the ensuing year for general
705 operation and maintenance and shall set forth reasonable
706 requirements for anticipated needs for capital outlays for land,
707 buildings, equipment and major repairs, a reasonable accumulation
708 for such purposes being hereby expressly authorized. Funds



709 derived from the levy for capital outlay shall be kept in a
710 separate account and expended for capital outlay purposes only.

711 (2) From and after July 1, 2027, when the consolidation of
712 the Meridian Community College District into the East Mississippi
713 Community College District is effectuated as required under
714 Section 1 of this act, the Meridian Community College District
715 shall be dissolved, the authority granted under subsection (1) of
716 this section shall be transferred to the board of trustees of the
717 East Mississippi Community College District.

718 **SECTION 21.** Section 37-29-513, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
719 amended as follows:

720 37-29-513. (1) After the annual budget has been prepared,
721 the Board of Trustees of the Meridian * * * Community College
722 District shall certify the same in writing to the City Council of
723 the City of Meridian and shall certify to the number of mills of
724 ad valorem taxation required to make provisions for the revenue
725 required in said budget. It shall thereupon become the duty of
726 the City of Meridian to levy taxes upon the Meridian * * *
727 Community College District in the amount specified by the board of
728 trustees. The tax levy for maintenance and operation of the
729 Meridian * * * Community College District shall not exceed three
730 (3) mills nor shall the levy for construction exceed an additional
731 three (3) mills.

732 (2) From and after July 1, 2027, when the consolidation of
733 the Meridian Community College District into the East Mississippi

734 Community College District is effectuated as required under
735 Section 1 of this act, the Meridian Community College District
736 shall be dissolved, the authority granted under subsection (1) of
737 this section shall be transferred to the board of trustees of the
738 East Mississippi Community College District.

739 **SECTION 22.** Section 37-29-515, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
740 amended as follows:

741 37-29-515. On or before the thirtieth day of each month, the
742 city council of the City of Meridian shall transmit warrants
743 constituting all of the revenues received from taxation for the
744 prior month for purposes of support of the Meridian * * *
745 Community College District to the president of East Mississippi
746 Community College for the use and benefit of the Meridian * * *
747 Campus. Such warrant or warrants shall bear indication of
748 revenues received for general support and maintenance and revenues
749 received for capital outlay purposes. All such warrants
750 evidencing income from the authorized tax levies shall be
751 deposited forthwith in one (1) or more banking institutions and
752 public depositories previously selected by the board of trustees
753 of the Meridian * * * Community College District serving on June
754 30, 2026, and spread upon its official minutes. Such funds shall
755 be paid out of the depository by order of the board of trustees
756 for the East Mississippi Community College District for lawful
757 purposes only.



758 **SECTION 23.** Section 37-29-551, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
759 amended as follows:

760 37-29-551. There is hereby created the * * * Mississippi
761 Delta Community College District comprised of the territory lying
762 within Bolivar County, Coahoma County, * * * Humphreys County,
763 Issaquena County, Leflore County, Sharkey County, Sunflower County
764 and Washington County, and having boundaries coinciding with the
765 external boundaries thereof. The district shall be, and is hereby
766 constituted, a legal political governmental subdivision and a body
767 corporate.

768 **SECTION 24.** Section 37-29-553, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
769 amended as follows:

770 37-29-553. (1) The * * * Mississippi Delta Community
771 College District shall be under the executive direction of a
772 president elected by the board of trustees of the district for a
773 term not to exceed four (4) years.

774 **SECTION 25.** Section 37-29-555, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
775 amended as follows:

776 37-29-555. The president of the Mississippi Delta Community
777 College district shall have the power to recommend to the trustees
778 all teachers to be employed; and he may remove or suspend any
779 member of the faculty subject to the approval of the trustees. He
780 shall be the general manager of all fiscal and administrative
781 affairs of the district with full authority to select, direct,
782 employ and discharge any and all employees other than teachers;



783 however, the board may make provisions and establish policies for
784 leave for faculty members and other key personnel.

785 (2) The president shall have the authority, subject to the
786 provisions of Sections 37-29-551 through 37-29-569 and the
787 approval of the trustees, to arrange and survey courses of study,
788 fix schedules, and establish and enforce rules and discipline for
789 the governing of teachers and students. He shall be the general
790 custodian of the property of the district.

791 **SECTION 26.** Section 37-29-557, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
792 amended as follows:

793 37-29-557. From and after July 1, 2027, when the
794 consolidation of the Coahoma Community College District into the
795 Mississippi Delta Community College District is effectuated as
796 required under Section 1 of this act, the operation and control of
797 the * * * Mississippi Delta Community College District shall be
798 vested in a board of trustees representing the counties lying
799 within the district. The board shall consist of * * * seventeen
800 (17) trustees selected in the manner provided in Section 1(2) of
801 this act and Section 37-29-65(4) * * *.

802 **SECTION 27.** Section 37-29-559, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
803 amended as follows:

804 37-29-559. (1) The President and the Board of Trustees of
805 the * * * Mississippi Delta Community College District shall have
806 the powers to do all things necessary for the successful operation
807 of the district and the campuses located therein.

808 (2) The college of the district shall be under the direction
809 of the board of trustees and the president. The board of trustees
810 shall, by resolution or order, provide for the government,
811 maintenance and operation of * * * campuses of the district.

812 (3) The President and the Board of Trustees of the * * *
813 Mississippi Delta Community College District shall have the same
814 powers as the presidents and trustees of other community colleges
815 in the State of Mississippi.

816 (4) The delineation and enumeration of the powers and
817 purposes set out in Sections 37-29-551 through 37-29-569 shall be
818 deemed to be supplemental and additional and shall not be
819 construed to restrict the powers of the governing authorities of
820 the district or of any college or campus located therein so as to
821 deny any of the rights, privileges and powers enjoyed by other
822 community/junior colleges and community/junior college districts
823 in the State of Mississippi.

824 (5) The * * * Mississippi Delta Community College District
825 shall remain subject to the jurisdiction of the Mississippi
826 Community College Board as now established or as the same may be
827 hereafter changed by law, and shall be subject to all rules and
828 regulations and all statutory limitations which are now in effect
829 or may hereafter be imposed, except as the same may be in direct
830 conflict with the provisions of Sections 37-29-551 through
831 37-29-569.

832 **SECTION 28.** Section 37-29-561, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
833 amended as follows:

834 37-29-561. From and after July 1, 2027, when the
835 consolidation of the Coahoma Community College District into the
836 Mississippi Delta Community College District is effectuated as
837 required under Section 1 of this act, the Board of Trustees of
838 the * * * Mississippi Delta Community College District shall each
839 year, on or before June 15, prepare a budget which shall contain a
840 detailed estimate of the revenues and expenses anticipated for the
841 ensuing year for general operation and maintenance, and shall set
842 forth the reasonable requirements for anticipated needs for
843 capital outlays for land, buildings, initial equipment for new
844 buildings and major repairs, a reasonable accumulation for such
845 purposes being hereby expressly authorized.

846 **SECTION 29.** Section 37-29-563, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
847 amended as follows:

848 37-29-563. The Board of Trustees of the * * * Mississippi
849 Delta Community College District shall have the authority to
850 purchase property, make capital improvements, and lease or use
851 private or public facilities at the campus, in the discretion of
852 the board.

853 **SECTION 30.** Section 37-29-565, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
854 amended as follows:

855 37-29-565. The * * * Mississippi Delta Community College
856 District is charged with the responsibility for providing

857 preprofessional courses, liberal arts, technical, vocational and
858 adult education courses, and shall undertake to provide the same
859 as conveniently as is possible to the residents of the district,
860 and to this end the board of trustees is authorized and empowered
861 to transport such students as, in its discretion, should be
862 transported in the best interest of the district.

863 **SECTION 31.** Section 37-29-567, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
864 amended as follows:

865 37-29-567. The Board of Trustees of the * * * Mississippi
866 Delta Community College District shall have the general borrowing
867 and bonding authority provided in Sections 37-29-101 through
868 37-29-127. The board of trustees shall have the taxation
869 authority provided in Sections 37-29-141 through 37-29-145.

870 **SECTION 32.** Section 37-29-569, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
871 amended as follows:

872 37-29-569. All of the property located in Coahoma County and
873 belonging to the Board of Trustees of Mississippi Delta Community
874 College prior to and as of the effective date hereof, cooperating
875 in the Coahoma County Community College, and utilized or held for
876 the present or future use and benefit of such community college,
877 shall be and the same is hereby transferred to and vested in
878 the * * * Mississippi Delta Community College District as created
879 by Sections 37-29-551 through 37-29-569.

880 **SECTION 33.** Section 37-29-571, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
881 amended as follows:

882 37-29-571. (1) All counties located within the Coahoma
883 Community College District shall allocate fifty percent (50%) of
884 any millage levied for the support and maintenance of community
885 colleges by such county under Section 37-29-141, Mississippi Code
886 of 1972, to the Coahoma Community College District and the
887 remaining fifty percent (50%) of such millage to the other
888 community college district in which such county is located.
889 Provided, however, that Coahoma County shall allocate one hundred
890 percent (100%) of the millage levied for the support and
891 maintenance of community colleges to the Coahoma Community College
892 District. Provided further, however, for the fiscal year
893 beginning July 1, 1995, Tunica County's allocation of any millage
894 shall be prorated with thirty-five percent (35%) being allocated
895 to the Coahoma Community College District and the remaining
896 sixty-five percent (65%) being allocated to the Northwest
897 Community College District. From and after July 1, 1996, the
898 Tunica County millage shall be divided equally between the Coahoma
899 Community College District and the Northwest Community College
900 District.

901 (2) From and after July 1, 2027, when the consolidation of
902 the Coahoma Community College District into the Mississippi Delta
903 Community College District is effectuated as required under
904 Section 1 of this act, this section shall be repealed.

905 **SECTION 34.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
906 and after July 1, 2026.

