

Chapter No. 71
14/SS02/A157SG
LR 100/10

SENATE BILL NO. 2859

Originated in Senate

Liz Wald

Secretary

SENATE BILL NO. 2859

AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING FOR THE SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE OF FINANCIAL AID SCHOLARSHIP, LOAN AND GRANT PROGRAMS AND THE MISSISSIPPI OFFICE OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015.

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

SECTION 1. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State General Fund not otherwise appropriated, to the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning for the support and maintenance of financial aid scholarship, loan and grant programs authorized by law and administered by the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid and for support of the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, and ending June 30, 2015 \$ 37,855,077.00.

SECTION 2. The following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby authorized out of the proceeds derived from any federal funds, grants, donations, fees, or other special source funds which are collected by or otherwise become available

for the support and maintenance of financial aid scholarship, loan and grant programs authorized by law including funds used as federal matching funds for the GEAR UP Mississippi Scholarship Program and administered by the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid and for support of the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, and ending June 30, 2015.....\$ 4,255,000.00.

SECTION 3. Any transfers or escalations shall be made in accordance with the terms, conditions, and procedures established by law.

Provided, however, that none of the funds apportioned in this act for the Out-of-State Educational Program shall be paid to or for the benefit of any student who enters a school outside the State of Mississippi for the first time, subsequent to July 1, 1982, in any discipline in the fields of medicine or dentistry.

SECTION 4. It is the intention of the Legislature that of the funds appropriated under the provisions of Section 1, the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning shall expend from the support of the out-of-state graduate and professional studies program an amount not exceeding the funding necessary, contingent upon the availability of qualified applicants, for eleven (11) new entering optometry students and the number of returning optometry students who received funding under the program during the preceding school year; for ten (10)

new entering chiropractic students, with not more than twenty-five (25) chiropractic students overall.

SECTION 5. In the allocation of funds appropriated under the provisions of Sections 1 and 2, among the student financial aid programs included herein, it is the intention of the Legislature that priority shall be given and funds shall be first allocated to all students eligible for financial aid under the provisions of Sections 37-107-1 through 37-107-7 and Sections 37-108-1 through 37-108-5, Mississippi Code of 1972.

SECTION 6. All funds provided for this act shall be accounted for in an annual report, which shall be submitted at the next regular session of the Legislature within ten (10) days after the convening thereof. The report should detail for each grant, scholarship, or loan program the number of recipients, the total amount of awards made, and the average award amount. The report shall include the number of students at each institution receiving financial assistance and the amount of such assistance. For loan programs, the report shall also include a summary of the repayment status and method of repayment for student cohorts as well as an accounting of the receipt of funds in repayment. Furthermore, all funds received and expended shall be reported and otherwise accounted for in accordance with the provisions of Section 37-143-21, Mississippi Code of 1972, except where individual identifying information must be withheld pursuant to the Family

Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 USC Section 1232g
34 CFR Part 99.

No public or private institution of higher learning receiving funds under the respective provisions of this act, for the purpose of issuing scholarship grants or loans, shall issue any official transcripts for any persons who have any amount of repayment in arrears on the date such official transcript is requested.

SECTION 7. It is the intention of the Legislature that the agency's budget request for Fiscal Year 2016 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee in a format and level of detail comparable to the format and level of detail provided during the Fiscal Year 2015 budget request process.

SECTION 8. Any funds appropriated pursuant to this act and paid as a fee to or deposited in a financial institution shall be in compliance with Section 109 of the Constitution of the State of Mississippi and Section 25-4-103, Mississippi Code of 1972.

SECTION 9. It is the intention of the Legislature that whenever two (2) or more bids are received by this agency for the purchase of commodities or equipment, and whenever all things stated in such received bids are equal with respect to price, quality and service, the Mississippi Industries for the Blind shall be given preference. A similar preference shall be given to the Mississippi Industries for the Blind whenever purchases are made without competitive bids.

SECTION 10. It is the intention of the Legislature that should funds become available in Fiscal Year 2015 to support a supplemental tuition grant program, the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning may establish the Mississippi Supplemental Tuition Grant Program. The amount of grants under this program shall be equivalent to the amount of grants awarded to freshmen and sophomores under Section 37-106-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, for Mississippi Tuition Assistance Grants.

SECTION 11. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00) is provided for the Speech-Language Pathologists Loan Forgiveness Program established under the provisions of Section 37-143-12, Mississippi Code of 1972, and administered by the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid.

SECTION 12. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000.00) is provided for the Teacher Education Scholars Program and shall only be allocated for approved teacher education scholars who are enrolled in one of Mississippi's public or private universities and is admitted into a teacher education program. At the end of each fiscal year the total funds not allocated for the Teacher Education Scholars Program shall lapse into the general fund.

SECTION 13. In addition to all other sums appropriated herein, the following sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of the Institutions of Higher Learning - Student

Financial Aid for the purpose of providing funds to the Teacher Education Scholars Program, for the period beginning upon the passage of this act and through June 30, 2014.....
.....\$ 1,500,000.00.

The funds provided for the Teacher Education Scholars Program in this section shall only be allocated for approved teacher education scholars who are enrolled in one of Mississippi's public or private universities and is admitted into a teacher education program.

SECTION 14. It is the intention of the Legislature that the funds herein appropriated shall be expended in compliance with Section 27-104-25, Mississippi Code of 1972, that no state agency shall incur obligations or indebtedness in excess of their appropriation and that the responsible officers, either personally or upon their official bonds, shall be held responsible for actions contrary to this provision.

SECTION 15. The money herein appropriated shall be paid by the State Treasurer out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of the proper fund or funds as set forth in this act, upon warrants issued by the State Fiscal Officer; and the State Fiscal Officer shall issue his warrants upon requisitions signed by the proper person, officer or officers, in the manner provided by law.

SECTION 16. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2014, except for Section 13 which will be in

force from and after passage of this act and through June 30,
2014.

PASSED BY THE SENATE
March 31, 2014



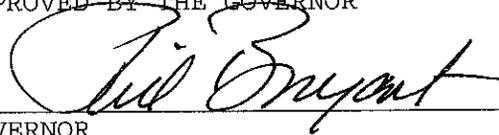
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
March 31, 2014



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR



GOVERNOR

4/16/14

8:41 am