MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION 2011

By: Senator(s) Watson

To: Universities and Colleges

SENATE BILL NO. 2721

AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING TO ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT A POLICY FOR THE GRANTING OF A MINIMUM NUMBER OF COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY CREDITS TO FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN STUDENTS WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED AN INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE THE BOARD TO MAKE THE POLICY AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC; TO REQUIRE EACH STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING TO ESTABLISH THE NUMBER OF CREDITS THE INSTITUTION MAY GRANT TO A STUDENT WHO HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED AN INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE STUDENTS SCORING THREE OR HIGHER ON INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE END-OF-COURSE EXAMS TO BE GRANTED A MINIMUM NUMBER OF TWENTY-FOUR COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY CREDITS; TO AMEND SECTION 37-15-38, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. The Mississippi Legislature finds and declares that:

(a) It is in the best interest of the State of Mississippi to encourage the development and adoption of innovative and effective curricula for high school students;

(b) The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program is an established and well-respected program designed to provide innovative curricula worldwide;

(c) In many educational systems, secondary education includes the equivalent of a thirteenth grade, and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program conforms to this approach with its rigorous course of study over two (2) years;

(d) A student who has successfully completed the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program is viewed as a highly attractive student by institutions of higher learning due to the student's ambition, work habits and scholarship;

(e) Nationwide, institutions of higher learning recognize the high level of academic sophistication of International Baccalaureate students, and many institutions offer considerable college credit as an inducement for those students to attend their institutions;

(f) Many Mississippi International Baccalaureate students leave the state to attend institutions of higher learning that provide attractive offers of credit; and

(g) It is in the best interest of the State of Mississippi to retain the state's best and brightest students who can establish permanent residency and subsequently contribute to the intellectual and economic vitality of the state.

SECTION 2. It is the intent of the Mississippi Legislature in enacting this act that Mississippi state institutions of higher learning be required to offer credit to International Baccalaureate students.

SECTION 3. (1) The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning shall adopt and implement a policy requiring each state institution of higher learning under the board's management and control to grant a minimum number of college or university credits to first-time freshmen students who have successfully completed an International Baccalaureate Diploma Program.

(2) The policy adopted and implemented under subsection (1) of this section shall be made available to the public in an electronic format.

(3) Each state institution of higher learning shall establish the number of credits the institution may grant to a student who has successfully completed an International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. The number of credits granted by an institution shall be, at a minimum, twenty-four (24) college or university semester credits or their equivalent. Each state institution of higher learning shall identify the specific general

education or elective requirements that the student satisfies by having successfully completed the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program and shall outline the conditions necessary for a student to receive the credits.

(4) Each state institution of higher learning may establish the level of student performance necessary for a student to be granted credits, as measured by a student's exam performance in the specific courses constituting the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. However, an institution may not grant less than twenty-four (24) college or university semester credits or their equivalent if the student has received a score of less than three (3) or higher on each end-of-course examination administered as part of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program.

SECTION 4. Section 37-15-38, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

37-15-38. (1) **Dual enrollment.** A local school board, the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning and the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges shall establish a dual enrollment system under which students in the school district who meet the prescribed criteria of this section may be enrolled in a postsecondary institution in Mississippi while they are still in school.

(2) **Student eligibility.** Before credits earned by a qualified high school student from a community or junior college or state institution of higher learning may be transferred to the student's home school district, the student must be properly enrolled in a dual enrollment program.

(3) **Admission criteria for dual enrollment in community and junior college or university programs.** The boards of trustees of the community and junior college districts and the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning may recommend to the State Board of Education admission criteria for dual enrollment programs under which high school students may enroll at

a community or junior college or university while they are still attending high school and enrolled in high school courses. Students may be admitted to enroll in community or junior college courses under the dual enrollment programs if they meet that individual institution's stated admission requirements.

(4) **Tuition and cost responsibility.** Tuition and costs for university-level courses and community and junior college courses offered under a dual enrollment program may be paid for by the postsecondary institution, the local school district, the parents or legal guardians of the student, or by grants, foundations or other private or public sources. Payment for tuition and any other costs must be made directly to the credit-granting institution.

(5) **Transportation responsibility.** Any transportation required by a student to participate in the dual enrollment program is the responsibility of the parent, custodian or legal guardian of the student. Transportation costs may be paid from any available public or private sources, including the local school district.

(6) **School district average daily attendance credit.** When dually enrolled, the student may be counted, for adequate education program funding purposes, in the average daily attendance of the public school district in which the student attends high school.

(7) **High school student transcript transfer requirements.** Grades and college credits earned by a student admitted to a dual enrollment program must be recorded on the high school student record and on the college transcript at the university or community or junior college and high school where the student attends classes. The transcript of the university or community or junior college coursework may be released to another institution or applied toward college graduation requirements.

(8) **Determining factor of prerequisites for enrollment in dual credit courses.** Each university and community or junior college participating in a dual enrollment program shall determine course prerequisites for enrolling and receiving dual credit.

(9) **Process for determining articulation of curriculum between high school, university, and community and junior college courses.** Postsecondary curricula for eligible courses currently offered through Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks must meet the prescribed competencies requirements. Eligible courses not offered in Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks must meet the standards established at the postsecondary level. Postsecondary level developmental courses may not be considered as meeting the requirements of the dual enrollment program. Dual credit memorandum of understandings must be established between each postsecondary institution and the school district implementing a dual credit program.

(10) **Ineligible courses for dual credit programs.** Any course that is required for subject area testing as a requirement for graduation from a public school in Mississippi is not eligible for dual credit.

(11) **Eligible courses for dual credit programs.** Courses eligible for dual credit include, but are not necessarily limited to, foreign languages, advanced math courses, advanced science courses, performing arts, advanced business and technology, and career and technical courses. All courses being considered for dual credit must receive unconditional approval from the superintendent of the local school district and the chief academic officer at the participating community or junior college or university in order for college credit to be awarded. A university or community or junior college shall make the final decision on what courses are eligible for semester hour credits. The local school superintendent shall make the final decision on

the transfer of college or university courses credited to the student's high school transcript.

(12) **High school Carnegie unit equivalency.** One (1) three-hour university or community or junior college course is equal to one-half (1/2) high school Carnegie unit. A full Carnegie unit may be awarded for a three-hour university or college course upon approval of the local superintendent. Partial credit agreements for postsecondary courses that are less than three (3) hours may be developed between a local school district and the participating postsecondary institution.

(13) **Course alignment.** Once alignment is achieved between university courses, community and junior college courses and the State Board of Education approved high school courses, the universities, community and junior colleges and high schools shall periodically review their respective policies and assess the place of dual credit courses within the context of their traditional offerings.

(14) **Maximum dual credits allowed.** It is the intent of the dual enrollment program to make it possible for every eligible student who desires to earn a semester's worth of college credit in high school to do so. A qualified dually enrolled high school student must be allowed to earn an unlimited number of college or university credits for dual credit as long as a B average is earned on the first two (2) approved dual credit courses. If a B average is not maintained after the completion of the student's first two (2) dual credit courses, the student may not continue in the dual credit program.

(15) **Dual credit program allowances.** A student may be granted credit delivered through the following means:

(a) Examination preparation taught at a high school by qualified teacher. A student may receive credit at the secondary level after completion of an approved course and passing the standard examination, such as an Advanced Placement or

International Baccalaureate course through which a high school student is allowed CLEP credit by making a three (3) or higher on the end-of-course examination. Any student successfully completing an International Baccalaureate Diploma Program shall be awarded a minimum of twenty-four (24) college or university credits, as required under Section 3 of this act.

(b) School-based courses taught at a high school or designated postsecondary site by a qualified teacher who is an employee of the school district and approved as an instructor by the collaborating college or university.

(c) College or university-based courses taught at a college, university or high school by an instructor employed by the college or university and approved by the collaborating school district.

(d) Online courses, including eligible courses offered by the Mississippi Virtual Public School or any postsecondary institution.

(16) **Qualifications of dual credit instructors.** A dual credit academic instructor must have, at a minimum, a master's degree with at least eighteen (18) graduate semester hours in the instructor's field of expertise. University and community and junior college personnel have the sole authority in the selection of dual credit instructors.

A dual credit career and technical education instructor must meet the requirements set forth by the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges in the qualifications manual for postsecondary career and technical personnel.

(17) **Guidance on local agreements.** The Chief Academic Officer of the State Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning and the Chief Academic Officer of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges and the State Department of Education, working collaboratively, shall develop a template to be used by the individual community and junior colleges and

institutions of higher learning for consistent implementation of the dual enrollment program throughout the State of Mississippi.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2011.

ST: International Baccalaureate Diploma Program; require IHL to grant minimum credit to graduates of.