

By: Senator(s) Burton, Hall

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2129

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A MISSISSIPPI CONSTRUCTION EDUCATION
 2 PROGRAM TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND
 3 JUNIOR COLLEGES TO PROVIDE TUITION-FREE TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION
 4 COURSEWORK FOR SKILLED LABOR EMPLOYEES IN THE STATE'S CONSTRUCTION
 5 INDUSTRY; TO CREATE THE CONSTRUCTION EDUCATION FUND; TO PRESCRIBE
 6 STANDARDS FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF SUCH FUNDS; AND FOR RELATED
 7 PURPOSES.

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

9 SECTION 1. (1) There is hereby established a Mississippi
 10 Construction Education Program to be administered by the State
 11 Board for Community and Junior Colleges to provide tuition-free
 12 training and certification coursework to skilled labor employees
 13 in Mississippi's construction industry.

14 (2) Funds appropriated by the Legislature for the
 15 Mississippi Construction Education Program shall be deposited into
 16 the "Construction Education Fund," a special fund hereby created
 17 in the State Treasury, and distributed by the State Board for
 18 Community and Junior Colleges created in Section 37-4-3,
 19 Mississippi Code of 1972, to Mississippi public community or
 20 junior colleges, public high schools and certain construction
 21 educational trusts or foundations approved by the board in the
 22 manner hereinafter provided to offer courses for construction
 23 education and construction craft training to meet the needs of the
 24 construction industry of the State of Mississippi.

25 (3) The State Board for Community and Junior Colleges shall,
 26 on an annual basis, solicit from all the public community and
 27 junior colleges, public high schools and any construction
 28 educational trusts or foundations, applications for the use of

29 such funds in construction education and craft training programs
30 in a manner prescribed by the board. The board may appoint a
31 technical advisory committee or may designate the State Board of
32 Public Contractors created in Section 31-3-3, Mississippi Code of
33 1972, to advise the board on the most needed areas of construction
34 education and craft training, continuing education or research
35 relating to the construction education and craft training in the
36 state, based on significant changes in the construction industry's
37 practices, economic development or on problems costing public or
38 private contractors substantial waste. The board shall ensure
39 that the monies distributed from this fund are properly spent to
40 promote construction education and craft training in programs in
41 the state approved by the board.

42 (4) Each community college, junior college, public high
43 school or construction educational trust or foundation receiving
44 funds pursuant to this act for construction education or
45 construction craft training programs shall utilize such funds only
46 for construction education and craft training curricula and
47 program development, faculty development, equipment, student
48 scholarships, student assistantships, and for continuing education
49 programs related to construction education and craft training.
50 Such funds shall not be commingled with the normal operating funds
51 of the educational institution, regardless of the source of such
52 funds.

53 (5) The State Board for Community and Junior Colleges shall
54 ensure the distribution of reports and the availability of
55 construction education programs established pursuant to this act
56 to all segments of the construction industry. The board shall
57 cause a report to be made to the Legislature in October of each
58 year, summarizing the allocation of funds by institution or
59 program and summarizing the new projects funded and the status of
60 previously funded projects.

61 (6) All monies deposited into the "Construction Education
62 Fund" shall be subject to the availability of funds specifically
63 appropriated therefor by the Legislature, and shall be used
64 exclusively for construction education and craft training and any
65 unspent funds at the end of the fiscal year shall not revert to

66 the General Fund of the State Treasury but shall be available for
67 construction education and craft training in subsequent fiscal
68 years.

69 (7) All expenditures from the "Construction Education Fund"
70 shall be by requisition to the State Auditor, signed by the
71 Executive Director of the State Board for Community and Junior
72 Colleges, and the State Treasurer shall issue his warrants
73 thereon.

74 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
75 and after July 1, 1999.