

By: Guice

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 175  
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 31-3-14, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 REVISE THE USE AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE CONSTRUCTION EDUCATION  
3 FUND; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 31-3-14, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
6 amended as follows:

7 31-3-14. (1) In addition to the fees required for  
8 application and renewal for certification and registration of all  
9 contractors in Section 31-3-13, all holders of a certificate of  
10 responsibility shall pay a fee equal to One Hundred Dollars  
11 (\$100.00) at the time of application or renewal of certificates of  
12 responsibility. Any residential builder licensed under the  
13 provisions of Section 73-59-1 et seq. shall be exempt from the fee  
14 imposed under this section. The revenue derived from such  
15 additional fees shall be deposited into the "Construction  
16 Education Fund," a special fund hereby created in the State  
17 Treasury, and distributed by the State Board of Contractors  
18 created in Section 31-3-3, to \* \* \* public high schools and  
19 community colleges that participate in the Mississippi  
20 Construction Education Foundation's "school-to-work" program and  
21 state universities that have construction technology programs and  
22 certain construction educational trusts approved by the State  
23 Board of Contractors in the manner hereinafter provided to offer  
24 courses for construction education and construction craft training  
25 to meet the needs of the construction industry of the State of  
26 Mississippi.

27           (2) The State Board of Contractors shall, on an annual  
28 basis, solicit from the Mississippi state institutions of higher  
29 learning, all the public community and junior colleges, the  
30 Mississippi Construction Education Foundation, public high schools  
31 that participate in the Mississippi Construction Education  
32 Foundation's "school-to-work" program and certain construction  
33 educational trusts, applications for the use of such funds in  
34 construction education and craft training programs in a manner  
35 prescribed by the board. The board may appoint a technical  
36 advisory committee to advise the board on the most needed areas of  
37 construction education and craft training, continuing education or  
38 research relating to the construction education and craft training  
39 in the state, based on significant changes in the construction  
40 industry's practices, economic development or on problems costing  
41 public or private contractors substantial waste. The board shall  
42 ensure that the monies distributed from this fund are properly  
43 spent to promote construction education and craft training in  
44 programs in the state which are approved by the board. At least  
45 seventy-five percent (75%) of the monies distributed by the board,  
46 pursuant to this section, must be used for construction craft  
47 training.

48           (3) Each university, junior college, community college, the  
49 Mississippi Construction Education Foundation, public high schools  
50 that participate in the foundation's "school-to-work" program or  
51 construction educational trust receiving funds pursuant to this  
52 section for construction education or construction craft training  
53 programs shall utilize such funds only for construction education  
54 and craft training curricula and program development, faculty  
55 development, equipment, student scholarships, student  
56 assistantships, and for continuing education programs related to  
57 construction education and craft training. Such funds shall not  
58 be commingled with the normal operating funds of the educational  
59 institution, regardless of the source of such funds.

60           (4) The State Board of Contractors shall ensure the  
61 distribution of reports and the availability of construction  
62 education programs established pursuant to this section to all  
63 segments of the construction industry that are subject to the fee  
64 provided under this section. The board shall cause a report to be  
65 made to the Legislature in October of each year, summarizing the  
66 allocation of funds by institution or program and summarizing the  
67 new projects funded and the status of previously funded projects.

68           (5) All monies deposited into the "Construction Education  
69 Fund" shall be used exclusively for construction education and  
70 craft training and any unspent funds at the end of the fiscal year  
71 shall not revert to the General Fund of the State Treasury but  
72 shall be available for construction education and craft training  
73 in subsequent fiscal years.

74           (6) All expenditures from the "Construction Education Fund"  
75 shall be by requisition to the State Auditor, signed by the  
76 executive secretary of the board and countersigned by the chairman  
77 or vice chairman of the board, and the State Treasurer shall issue  
78 his warrants thereon.

79           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
80 and after July 1, 2000.