

By: Fleming

To: Education;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 185

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO
2 DEVELOP A PROGRAM OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION TO BE MADE
3 AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THE 2000-2001 SCHOOL
4 YEAR; TO SPECIFY CERTAIN SKILLS TO BE TAUGHT THROUGH THE PROGRAM;
5 TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT TO UTILIZE AVAILABLE FUNDING TO TRAIN
6 TEACHERS IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 SECTION 1. (1) The Legislature finds and declares the
9 following:

10 (a) Many young people today consider their knowledge of
11 entrepreneurship and business to be very poor to fair, at best.

12 (b) Starting and running a business can be the means
13 for a young person to become a productive member of society, while
14 simultaneously creating jobs and stimulating economic growth
15 within the entrepreneur's local community.

16 (c) Entrepreneurship education provides students with
17 the skills to start a business as well as the inspiration to take
18 a personal path of individual responsibility and make positive
19 goal-setting choices.

20 (d) In addition to teaching small business formation,
21 entrepreneurship courses help students to improve their reading,
22 writing, math and basic life skills, which improves their grades
23 and self-esteem and gives them practical business knowledge.

24 (e) Entrepreneurship training provides individuals with
25 the knowledge and initiative to pursue economic self-sufficiency.

26 (2) The State Department of Education shall develop a
27 program of entrepreneurship education to be made available to
28 students in all public secondary schools beginning in the
29 2000-2001 school year. The program shall be designed to train
30 students in those skills needed to start and run a business and
31 shall have as its foundation the youth entrepreneurship training
32 system and curriculum model of the National Foundation for
33 Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE), Inc., or a similar youth
34 entrepreneurship training program. Through the program, students
35 will be taught the following skills:

36 (a) How to analyze situations and organize and plan the
37 allocation of resources to creatively solve problems;

38 (b) Sociability techniques for working with others;

39 (c) Communication skills and effective marketing
40 techniques;

41 (d) Written and oral presentation skills;

42 (e) Research skills, including how to read financial
43 journals and periodicals;

44 (f) How the free market system operates through supply
45 and demand; and

46 (g) Computer technologies for creating marketing
47 flyers, business cards and business plan presentations.

48 (3) The State Department of Education may utilize any
49 available funding for the purpose of awarding scholarships to
50 Mississippi teachers who are accepted to the NFTE University or
51 similar entrepreneurship training program or to provide
52 entrepreneurship teacher training locally through a certified NFTE
53 or a similar entrepreneurship program educator. The department is
54 encouraged to apply for any grants, private or public, which may

55 be used for such purposes and for funding entrepreneurship
56 education.

57 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
58 and after its passage.