

By: Frierson

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1212
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 37-31-205 AND 37-31-7, MISSISSIPPI
2 CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO RECOGNIZE
3 VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION TEACHERS' SUMMER WORK IN THEIR
4 RESPECTIVE FIELDS OF INSTRUCTION IN FULFILLMENT OF LICENSURE
5 RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS, AND TO REQUIRE CLASSES TAKEN FOR LICENSURE
6 RENEWAL PURPOSES TO BE IN FURTHERANCE OF A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IF
7 THE TEACHER DOES NOT HAVE A DEGREE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 SECTION 1. Section 37-31-205, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10 amended as follows:[HS1]

11 37-31-205. (1) The State Board of Education shall have the
12 authority to:

13 (a) Expend funds received either by appropriation or
14 directly from federal or private sources;

15 (b) Channel funds to secondary schools, community and
16 junior colleges and regional vocational-technical facilities
17 according to priorities set by the board;

18 (c) Allocate funds on an annual budgetary basis;

19 (d) Set standards for and approve all vocational and
20 technical education programs in the public school system and
21 community and junior colleges or other agencies or institutions
22 which receive state funds and federal funds for such purposes,
23 including, but not limited to, the following vocational and
24 technical education programs: agriculture, trade and industry,
25 occupational home economics, consumer and homemaking education,
26 distributive education, business and office, health, industrial
27 arts, guidance services, technical education, cooperative
28 education, and all other specialized training not requiring a

29 bachelors degree, with the exception of programs of nursing
30 education regulated under the provisions of Section 37-129-1. The
31 State Board of Education shall authorize local schools boards,
32 within such school board's discretion, to offer distributive
33 education as a one-hour or two-hour block course. There shall be
34 no reduction of reimbursements from state funding for distributive
35 education due to the selection of either the one-hour or two-hour
36 course offering;

37 (e) Set and publish licensure standards for vocational
38 and technical education personnel. The State Board of Education
39 shall recognize a vocational and technical education teacher's
40 work when school is not in session which is in the teacher's
41 particular field of instruction as a means for the teacher to
42 fulfill the requirements for renewal of the teacher's license.
43 The board shall establish, by rules and regulations, the
44 documentation of such work which must be submitted to the board
45 and the number of actual working hours required to fulfill renewal
46 requirements. If a vocational and technical education teacher who
47 does not have a bachelor's degree takes classes in fulfillment of
48 licensure renewal requirements, such classes must be in
49 furtherance of a bachelor's degree;

50 (f) Require data and information on program performance
51 from those programs receiving state funds;

52 (g) Expend funds to expand career information;

53 (h) Supervise and maintain the division of vocational
54 and technical education and to utilize to the greatest extent
55 possible said division as the administrative unit of the board
56 responsible for coordinating programs and services with local
57 institutions;

58 (i) Promulgate such rules and regulations necessary to
59 carry out the provisions of this chapter in accordance with
60 Section 25-43-1 et seq.;

61 (j) Set standards and approve all vocational and
62 technical education equipment and facilities purchased and/or
63 leased with state and federal vocational funds;

64 (k) Encourage provisions for lifelong learning and
65 changing personal career preferences and advancement of vocational

66 and technical education students through articulated programs
67 between high schools and community and junior colleges;

68 (l) Encourage the establishment of new linkages with
69 business and industry which will provide for a better
70 understanding of essential labor market concepts;

71 (m) Periodically review the funding and reporting
72 processes required of local school districts by the board or
73 division with the aim of simplifying or eliminating inefficient
74 practices and procedures;

75 (n) Assist in the development of high technology
76 programs and resource centers to support current and projected
77 industrial needs;

78 (o) Assist in the development of a technical assistance
79 program for business and industry which will provide for
80 industrial training and services, including the transfer of
81 information relative to new applications and advancements in
82 technology; and

83 (p) Enter into contracts and agreements with the State
84 Board for Community and Junior Colleges for conditions under which
85 vocational and technical education programs in community and
86 junior colleges shall receive state and federal funds which flow
87 through the State Board of Education for such purposes.

88 (2) It is the intent of the Legislature that no vocational
89 and technical education course or program existing on June 30,
90 1982, shall be eliminated by the State Board of Education under
91 the authority vested in paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of this
92 section prior to June 30, 1985. It is further the intent of the
93 Legislature that no vocational and technical education teacher or
94 other personnel employed on June 30, 1983, shall be discharged due
95 to licensure standards promulgated by the board under paragraph
96 (e) of subsection (1) of this section, if any such teacher or
97 personnel shall have complied with any newly published licensure
98 standards by June 30, 1985. Nothing contained in this section

99 shall be construed to abrogate or affect in any manner the
100 authority of local public school districts or community and junior
101 colleges to eliminate vocational and technical education courses
102 or programs or to discharge any vocational and technical education
103 teacher or other personnel.

104 (3) The State Board of Education and the State Board for
105 Community and Junior Colleges may provide that beginning with the
106 1995-1996 school year, every vocational and technical education
107 course or program in Mississippi may integrate academic and
108 vocational-technical education through coherent sequences of
109 courses, so that students in such programs achieve both academic
110 and occupational competencies. The boards may expend federal
111 funds available from the 1990 Perkins Act, or other available
112 federal funds, for the alignment of vocational-technical programs
113 with academic programs through the accreditation process and the
114 teacher licensure process. * * *

115 SECTION 2. Section 37-31-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
116 amended as follows:[HS2]

117 37-31-7. The State Board of Education shall have all
118 necessary authority to cooperate with the federal board for
119 vocational education in the administration of the "Smith-Hughes
120 Act" and all subsequent federal vocational education and training
121 acts, to administer any legislation pursuant thereto enacted by
122 the State of Mississippi, and to administer the funds provided by
123 the federal government and the State of Mississippi under the
124 provisions of Sections 37-31-1 through 37-31-15 for the promotion
125 of vocational and technical education not terminating in a
126 bachelors degree. It shall have full authority to formulate plans
127 for the promotion of vocational and technical education in such
128 subjects as are an essential and integral part of the public
129 school system of education in the State of Mississippi, to provide
130 for the preparation of teachers of such subjects, and to escrow
131 funds for students participating in recognized articulated

132 business/industry specific worksite learning programs. It shall
133 have authority to fix the compensation of such officials and
134 assistants as may be necessary to administer the "Smith-Hughes
135 Act" and Sections 37-31-1 through 37-31-15 for the State of
136 Mississippi and to pay such compensation and other necessary
137 expenses of administration from funds appropriated under
138 provisions of said sections. It shall have authority to make
139 studies and investigations relating to vocational and technical
140 education in such subjects; to publish the results of such
141 investigations and to issue other publications as seem necessary
142 by the board; to promote and aid in the establishment by local
143 communities of schools, departments or classes giving training in
144 such subjects; to cooperate with local communities in the
145 maintenance of such schools, department or classes; to prescribe
146 qualifications for the teachers, directors and supervisors of such
147 subjects, and to have full authority to provide for the licensure
148 and renewal of licenses of such teachers, directors and
149 supervisors; to cooperate in the maintenance of classes supported
150 and controlled by the public for the preparation of teachers,
151 directors and supervisors of such subjects or to maintain such
152 classes under its own direction and control; and to establish and
153 determine by general regulations the qualifications to be
154 possessed by persons engaged in the training of vocational and
155 technical teachers.

156 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from
157 and after July 1, 2000.