

By: Lott

To: Education

## HOUSE BILL NO. 1409

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ESTABLISH A  
2 VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION TRACK AS AN ALTERNATIVE FOR  
3 STUDENTS TO THE COLLEGE PREPARATORY CURRICULUM; TO PROVIDE THAT  
4 STUDENTS IN THE VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION TRACK SHALL BE  
5 REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE CORE CURRICULUM DEFINED BY THE STATE  
6 BOARD OF EDUCATION AND MAY EARN ADDITIONAL CREDITS FOR  
7 PARTICIPATION IN COOPERATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS; TO BRING FORWARD  
8 SECTION 37-31-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH AUTHORIZES  
9 SCHOOL BOARDS TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL  
10 SCHOOLS AND CLASSES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

12 SECTION 1. (1) The school board of a local school district,  
13 in its discretion, may establish and implement a vocational and  
14 technical education track in the high schools in that district as  
15 an alternative to the college preparatory curriculum. The purpose  
16 of a vocational and technical education track established pursuant  
17 to this section shall be to provide those students who do not  
18 intend to pursue a traditional college education with skills and  
19 training that will lead to gainful employment in a trade or  
20 vocation.

21 (2) Students who participate in the vocational and technical  
22 education track shall be required to complete the core curriculum  
23 defined by the State Board of Education. In addition, a student  
24 in the vocational and technical education track may be awarded  
25 credit for an additional four (4) high school units earned through  
26 the track, which units shall apply toward, and must be recognized  
27 by the State Board of Education in fulfillment of, the local  
28 school district's graduation requirements. Units may be awarded  
29 in the vocational and technical education track for participation  
30 in a cooperative education program, whereby a student gains actual

31 work experience in his chosen field through employment in a job  
32 approved by the local school district. The local school district  
33 shall adopt policies governing the participation of students in a  
34 cooperative education program.

35 (3) Students successfully completing a vocational and  
36 technical education track established pursuant to this section are  
37 entitled to diploma evidencing graduation from a high school in  
38 Mississippi.

39 SECTION 2. Section 37-31-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
40 brought forward as follows:

41 37-31-15. The school board may, in its discretion, cooperate  
42 with the State Board of Education in the establishment and  
43 maintenance of vocational and technical schools or classes giving  
44 instruction in vocational and technical training which does not  
45 terminate in a bachelors degree to persons in need of such  
46 instruction, and may use for paying the cost of such cooperation  
47 any monies raised by public taxation in the same manner as monies  
48 for other school purposes are used for the maintenance and support  
49 of public schools.

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