

By: Lott

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1409
(As Sent to Governor)

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; AND FOR RELATED
8 PURPOSES.

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

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

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

30 approved by the local school district. The local school district
31 shall adopt policies governing the participation of students in a
32 cooperative education program.

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

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