

By: Representative Lott

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 52

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ESTABLISH A
 2 VOCATIONAL STUDY PROGRAM THROUGH WHICH STUDENTS MAY RECEIVE
 3 CREDITS TOWARD GRADUATION FOR VOCATIONAL EXPERIENCE; TO PROVIDE
 4 THAT STUDENTS IN THE VOCATIONAL STUDY PROGRAM SHALL BE REQUIRED TO
 5 COMPLETE THE CORE CURRICULUM DEFINED BY THE STATE BOARD OF
 6 EDUCATION AND MAY EARN ADDITIONAL CREDITS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE
 7 VOCATIONAL STUDY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 SECTION 1. (1) The school board of a local school district,
 10 in its discretion, may establish and implement a vocational study
 11 program in the high schools in that district through which
 12 students may earn high school units for vocational experience as
 13 an alternative to those high school units required by the school
 14 district in addition to the core curriculum defined by the State
 15 Board of Education. The purpose of a vocational study program
 16 established pursuant to this section shall be to provide those
 17 students who do not intend to pursue a traditional college
 18 education with skills and training that will lead to gainful
 19 employment in a trade or other specialized vocation.

20 (2) Students who participate in the vocational study program
 21 shall be required to complete the core curriculum defined by the
 22 State Board of Education. In addition, a student in the
 23 vocational study program may be awarded credit for an additional
 24 eight (8) high school units earned through the vocational study
 25 program, which units shall apply toward, and must be recognized by
 26 the State Board of Education in fulfillment of, the local school
 27 district's graduation requirements. Units may be awarded in the
 28 vocational study program, whereby a student gains actual work

29 experience through employment in a job approved by the local
30 school district. The local school district shall adopt policies
31 governing the participation of students in the vocational study
32 program.

33 (3) Students successfully completing a vocational study
34 program established pursuant to this section are entitled to a
35 diploma evidencing graduation from a high school in Mississippi.

36 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
37 and after July 1, 2001.