

By: Representative Lott

To: Education

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 52

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ESTABLISH A
2 VOCATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM THROUGH WHICH STUDENTS MAY
3 RECEIVE CREDITS TOWARD GRADUATION FOR VOCATIONAL EXPERIENCE; TO
4 PROVIDE THAT STUDENTS IN THE VOCATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM
5 SHALL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE CORE CURRICULUM DEFINED BY THE
6 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND MAY EARN ADDITIONAL CREDITS FOR
7 PARTICIPATION IN THE VOCATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP; 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
12 apprenticeship program in the high schools in that district
13 through which students may earn high school units for vocational
14 experience as an alternative to those high school units required
15 by the school district in addition to the core curriculum defined
16 by the State Board of Education. The purpose of a vocational
17 apprenticeship program established pursuant to this section shall
18 be to provide those students with skills and training that will
19 lead to gainful employment in a trade or other specialized
20 vocation.

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

30 requirements. Units may be awarded in the vocational
31 apprenticeship program, whereby a student gains actual work
32 experience through employment in a job approved by the local
33 school district. The local school district shall adopt policies
34 governing the participation of students in the vocational
35 apprenticeship program.

36 (3) Students successfully completing a vocational
37 apprenticeship program established pursuant to this section are
38 entitled to a diploma evidencing graduation from a high school in
39 Mississippi.

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