

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.