

By: Representative Guice

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 160

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 31-3-14, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 CLARIFY THE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS FROM THE CONSTRUCTION EDUCATION
3 FUND; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 31-3-14, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 31-3-14. (1) In addition to the fees required for
8 application and renewal for certification and registration of all
9 contractors in Section 31-3-13, all holders of a certificate of
10 responsibility shall pay a fee equal to One Hundred Dollars
11 (\$100.00) at the time of application or renewal of certificates of
12 responsibility. Any residential builder licensed under the
13 provisions of Section 73-59-1 et seq. shall be exempt from the fee
14 imposed under this section. The revenue derived from such
15 additional fees shall be deposited into the "Construction
16 Education Fund," a special fund hereby created in the State
17 Treasury, and distributed by the State Board of Contractors
18 created in Section 31-3-3, to public high schools, the Mississippi
19 Construction Education Foundation and community colleges that
20 participate in the Mississippi Construction Education Foundation's
21 "school-to-work" program and state universities that have
22 construction technology programs and certain construction
23 educational trusts approved by the State Board of Contractors in
24 the manner hereinafter provided to offer courses for construction
25 education and construction craft training to meet the needs of the
26 construction industry of the State of Mississippi.



27 (2) The State Board of Contractors shall, on an annual
28 basis, solicit from the Mississippi state institutions of higher
29 learning, all the public community and junior colleges, the
30 Mississippi Construction Education Foundation, public high schools
31 that participate in the Mississippi Construction Education
32 Foundation's "school-to-work" program and certain construction
33 educational trusts, applications for the use of such funds in
34 construction education and craft training programs in a manner
35 prescribed by the board. The board may appoint a technical
36 advisory committee to advise the board on the most needed areas of
37 construction education and craft training, continuing education or
38 research relating to the construction education and craft training
39 in the state, based on significant changes in the construction
40 industry's practices, economic development or on problems costing
41 public or private contractors substantial waste. The board shall
42 ensure that the monies distributed from this fund are properly
43 spent to promote construction education and craft training in
44 programs in the state which are approved by the board. At least
45 seventy-five percent (75%) of the monies distributed by the board,
46 pursuant to this section, must be used for construction craft
47 training.

48 (3) Each university, junior college, community college, the
49 Mississippi Construction Education Foundation, public high schools
50 that participate in the foundation's "school-to-work" program or
51 construction educational trust receiving funds pursuant to this
52 section for construction education or construction craft training
53 programs shall utilize such funds only for construction education
54 and craft training curricula and program development, faculty
55 development, equipment, student scholarships, student
56 assistantships, and for continuing education programs related to
57 construction education and craft training. Such funds shall not
58 be commingled with the normal operating funds of the educational
59 institution, regardless of the source of such funds.



60 (4) The State Board of Contractors shall ensure the
61 distribution of reports and the availability of construction
62 education programs established pursuant to this section to all
63 segments of the construction industry that are subject to the fee
64 provided under this section. The board shall cause a report to be
65 made to the Legislature in October of each year, summarizing the
66 allocation of funds by institution or program and summarizing the
67 new projects funded and the status of previously funded projects.

68 (5) All monies deposited into the "Construction Education
69 Fund" shall be used exclusively for construction education and
70 craft training and any unspent funds at the end of the fiscal year
71 shall not revert to the General Fund of the State Treasury but
72 shall be available for construction education and craft training
73 in subsequent fiscal years.

74 (6) All expenditures from the "Construction Education Fund"
75 shall be by requisition to the State Auditor, signed by the
76 executive secretary of the board and countersigned by the chairman
77 or vice chairman of the board, and the State Treasurer shall issue
78 his warrants thereon.

79 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
80 and after its passage.

