

By: Representative Guice

To: Judiciary B

HOUSE BILL NO. 458

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 31-3-14, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 AUTHORIZE THE STATE BOARD OF CONTRACTORS TO DISTRIBUTE FUNDS FROM  
3 THE CONSTRUCTION EDUCATION FUND TO THE MISSISSIPPI CONSTRUCTION  
4 EDUCATION FOUNDATION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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