

By: Representative Clark

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 446

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI SKILL STANDARDS BOARD AS AN
2 ADVISORY BOARD TO THE GOVERNOR, THE LEGISLATURE AND THE STATE
3 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STATEWIDE
4 SYSTEM OF INDUSTRY-DEFINED, INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED SKILL STANDARDS
5 AND CREDENTIALS FOR CERTAIN SKILLED OCCUPATIONS; TO PROVIDE FOR
6 THE COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD; TO PROVIDE THE DUTIES OF THE BOARD;
7 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** (1) The Mississippi Skill Standards Board is
10 created as an advisory board to the Governor, the Legislature and
11 the state workforce development system on the development of a
12 statewide system of industry-defined, industry-recognized skill
13 standards and credentials for all major skilled occupations that:

14 (a) Provide strong employment and earnings
15 opportunities in the state; and

16 (b) Are nationally recognized; and

17 (c) Require less than a baccalaureate degree.

18 (2) The board is composed of thirteen (13) members appointed
19 by the Governor. The term of each board member shall run
20 concurrent with the term of the Governor. The board consists of
21 the following members:

22 (a) Eight (8) members representing business, two (2) of
23 whom must be from business entities that employ fewer than fifty
24 (50) employees and one (1) each from the four-sector clusters as
25 defined by the Mississippi Technology Alliance;

26 (b) Two (2) members representing workers;

27 (c) One (1) member representing secondary education;

28 (d) One (1) member representing two-year public
29 post-secondary education; and

30 (e) One (1) member representing four-year public
31 post-secondary education.

32 (3) The Governor shall appoint the presiding officer of the
33 board from the members representing business.

34 (4) The Skill Standards Board shall:

35 (a) Validate nationally established skill standards to
36 guide curriculum development, training, assessment and
37 certification of workforce skills;

38 (b) Convene industry groups to develop skill standards
39 and certification procedures for industries and occupations in
40 which standards have not been established or adopted and recognize
41 the skill standards and certification procedures;

42 (c) Review standards developed by other states and
43 nations and enter into agreements for mutual recognition of
44 credentials to enhance portability of skills;

45 (d) Promote, in collaboration with the secondary and
46 post-secondary entities, the use of standards and credentials
47 among employers; and

48 (e) Develop a memorandum of understanding by and
49 between the workforce and education entities for the effective
50 development, implementation, operations and outcomes of the skills
51 standards effort.

52 (5) The board shall meet at the call of the presiding
53 officer as often as necessary to accomplish its work, and the
54 board shall meet a minimum of once each quarter in a fiscal year.

55 (6) A member of the board is not entitled to compensation
56 for service on the board but is entitled to reimbursement for
57 reasonable expenses incurred in performing board duties.

58 (7) The State Board for Community and Junior Colleges shall
59 provide staff support for the board as necessary.

60 (8) The Skill Standards Board shall report periodically to
61 the Governor and shall provide annual reports to the Governor, the
62 Legislature and the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges.

63 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
64 and after July 1, 2003.