

By: Representative Snowden

To: Education;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1564

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ALLOCATION OF MISSISSIPPI'S REED
2 ACT FUNDS TO SECONDARY AND POST-SECONDARY VOCATIONAL CENTERS FOR
3 THE PURPOSE OF MEASURING AND BUILDING BASIC WORKPLACE SKILLS IN
4 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL PROGRAMS; AND FOR
5 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) Beginning with the 2004-2005 school year,
8 Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,500,000.00) of
9 Mississippi's Reed Act funds shall be allocated for that school
10 year to the State Department of Education's Office of
11 Vocational/Technical Education to purchase a workforce development
12 system that measures specific workplace skills and comprehensive
13 software that will target instruction for building students'
14 skills with the following restrictions:

15 (a) The workforce development system will allow
16 communication on a common scale among individuals (students, job
17 applicants, current employees), employers, educators and trainers.

18 (b) The assessment will measure students' workplace
19 skills as they enter vocational/technical programs and again as
20 they complete these programs. This assessment package will
21 include at a minimum these basic components: reading for
22 information, applied mathematics and locating information.

23 (c) The assessment will identify workplace skills
24 required for specific jobs and will assist teachers and trainers
25 with targeted instruction where skill gaps occur. Students will
26 be able to build skill areas needing improvement during the two
27 (2) year vocational/technical programs as they prepare for
28 Mississippi's job opportunities.

29 (d) The comprehensive targeted instructional software
30 program will be designed for the building of workplace skills and
31 maintain the common scale and language of the assessment package.

32 (e) The comprehensive instructional software program
33 shall include skill ranges to assist students whose achievement
34 levels are very low. The software shall assist special
35 populations' students such as: individuals with disabilities,
36 economically disadvantaged, single parents, displaced homemakers,
37 those preparing for nontraditional training and employment and
38 students with other barriers to educational achievement such as
39 limited English proficiency.

40 **SECTION 2.** Beginning with the school year 2005-2006, One
41 Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000.00) of
42 Mississippi's Reed Act funds shall be allocated each year for the
43 next five (5) years to continue providing a uniform process for
44 measuring students' skill levels within vocational programs and to
45 update the software designed to build skills each year with these
46 expected outcomes:

47 (a) Students can improve workplace skills as well as
48 improve state test scores and college entrance test scores during
49 the two-year program.

50 (b) Teacher techniques and strategies can improve with
51 each year of targeted administration and instruction resulting in
52 better student performance.

53 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
54 and after July 1, 2004.