By: Senator(s) Burton   To: Education;
                                           Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2849

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

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

6   **SECTION 1.** (1) Beginning with the 2004-2005 school year, a

7 portion of Mississippi's Reed Act Funds, Two Million Five Hundred

8 Thousand Dollars ($2,500,000.00), shall be allocated for that

9 school year to the Mississippi Department of Education's Office of

10 Vocational/Technical Education to purchase a workforce development

11 system that measures specific workplace skills and comprehensive

12 software that will target instruction for building students'

13 skills with the following restrictions:

14   (a) The workforce development system will allow

15 communication on a common scale among individuals (students, job

16 applicants, current employees), employers, educators and trainers.

17   (b) The assessment will measure students' workplace

18 skills as they enter vocational/technical programs and again as

19 they complete these programs. This assessment package will

20 include at a minimum these basic components: reading for

21 information, applied mathematics and locating information.

22   (c) The assessment will identify workplace skills

23 required for specific jobs and will assist teachers and trainers

24 with targeted instruction where skill gaps occur. Students will

25 be able to build skill areas needing improvement during the

26 two-year vocational/technical programs as they prepare for

27 Mississippi's job opportunities.

28   (d) The comprehensive targeted instructional software
29 program will be designed for the building of workplace skills and
30 maintain the common scale and language of the assessment package.
31   (e) The comprehensive instructional software program
32 shall include skill ranges to assist students whose skill
33 achievement levels are very low. The software shall assist
34 special populations' students such as: individuals with
35 disabilities, economically disadvantaged, single parents,
36 displaced homemakers, those preparing for nontraditional training
37 and employment and students with other barriers to educational
38 achievement such as limited English proficiency.
39   **SECTION 2.** Beginning with the school year 2005-2006, a
40 portion of Reed Act Funds, One Million Five Hundred Thousand
41 Dollars ($1,500,000.00), shall be allocated each year for the next
42 five (5) years to continue providing a uniform process for
43 measuring students' skill levels within vocational programs and to
44 update the software designed to build skills each year with these
45 expected outcomes:
46   (a) Students can improve workplace skills as well as
47 improve state test scores and college entrance test scores during
48 the two-year program.
49   (b) Teacher techniques and strategies can improve with
50 each year of targeted administration and instruction resulting in
51 better student performance.
52   **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
53 and after July 1, 2004.

S. B. No. 2849   *SS01/R1236*
04/SS01/R1236   ST: Reed Act Funds to vo-tech centers for
PAGE 2   workforce development system; provide for
                          allocation of.