

By: Senator(s) Tollison

To: Finance

SENATE BILL NO. 2761

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A MISSISSIPPI SKILL STANDARDS BOARD AS AN
2 ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD; TO
3 PRESCRIBE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD TO REVIEW STANDARDS TO
4 GUIDE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING, ASSESSMENT AND
5 CERTIFICATION OF WORKFORCE SKILLS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** (1) The Mississippi Skill Standards Board
8 (board) is created as an advisory board to the Mississippi State
9 Workforce Investment Board established in Section 37-153-7 on the
10 development of a statewide system of industry-defined and
11 industry-recognized skill standards and credentials for all major
12 skilled occupations that:

13 (a) Provide strong employment and earnings
14 opportunities in this state; and

15 (b) Require less than a baccalaureate degree.

16 (2) The board shall be composed of eleven (11) members
17 appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Governor. The
18 board consists of the following members:

19 (a) Seven (7) members representing business, two (2) of
20 whom must be from business entities that employ fewer than fifty
21 (50) employees;

22 (b) Two (2) members representing labor;

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

24 and

25 (d) One (1) member representing postsecondary
26 education.

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

29 (4) The skill standards board shall:

30 (a) Validate and recognize nationally established skill
31 standards to guide curriculum development, training, assessment
32 and certification of workforce skills;

33 (b) Convene industry groups to develop skill standards
34 and certification procedures for industries and occupations in
35 which standards have not been established or adopted and recognize
36 the skill standards and certification procedures;

37 (c) Review the standards developed by other states and
38 foreign countries and enter into agreements for mutual recognition
39 of standards and credentials to enhance portability of skills; and

40 (d) Promote the use of standards and credentials among
41 employers.

42 (5) The board shall meet at the call of the presiding
43 officer as often as necessary to accomplish its work.

44 (6) A member of the board is not entitled to compensation
45 for services on the board but is entitled to reimbursement for
46 reasonable expenses incurred in performing board duties, subject
47 to any applicable limitation in Section 25-3-41.

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

50 (8) The board shall report periodically to the Mississippi
51 State Workforce Investment Board and shall provide annual reports
52 to the Governor and the Legislature.

53 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
54 and after July 1, 2005.