

By: Representatives Brown, Weathersby, Lott, To: Education
Montgomery

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 214

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DESIGN
2 AND IMPLEMENT A DIPLOMA PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN
3 DIRECT ENTRY INTO THE WORKFORCE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING HIGH SCHOOL
4 GRADUATION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** The State Department of Education shall design
7 and implement a diploma program designed for students who are
8 interested in direct entry into the workforce immediately
9 following high school graduation. It is the intent of the
10 Legislature that the curriculum for this diploma program be
11 rigorous, meeting the requirements based on research outlining the
12 skills needed for entry into the workforce. This diploma program
13 shall comply with the federal No Child Left Behind Act. The
14 department shall implement this diploma program for entering ninth
15 graders beginning with the 2007-2008 school year. The department
16 shall report to the Legislature on January 1, 2007, on its plan
17 for this diploma program.

18 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this act shall be codified as a new
19 section in Chapter 3, Title 37, Mississippi Code of 1972.

20 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
21 and after July 1, 2006.