

By: Representative Clark

To: Ways and Means

HOUSE BILL NO. 609

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, 2006.