

By: Representatives White, Hines

To: Workforce Development

HOUSE BILL NO. 507

1 AN ACT TO REENACT SECTIONS 57-107-1 THROUGH 57-107-7,  
 2 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH ESTABLISH THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA  
 3 AREA WORKFORCE TRAINING PROJECT; TO REPEAL SECTION 39, CHAPTER  
 4 480, LAWS OF 2011, WHICH ESTABLISHES A JULY 1, 2016, REPEAL DATE  
 5 ON THOSE STATUTES THAT CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA AREA WORKFORCE  
 6 TRAINING PROJECT; TO CREATE NEW SECTION 57-107-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE  
 7 OF 1972, TO PLACE A REPEALER ON THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA AREA  
 8 WORKFORCE TRAINING PROJECT IN THE MISSISSIPPI CODE; AND FOR  
 9 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** Section 57-107-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
 12 reenacted as follows:

13 57-107-1. There is created the Mississippi Delta Area  
 14 Workforce Training Project, a pilot program aimed at implementing  
 15 coordinated strategies for improving the retention and expansion  
 16 of jobs in the Mississippi Delta region. The goals of the pilot  
 17 program shall include reducing or eliminating the complexity of  
 18 access to workforce assistance programs for existing and  
 19 prospective employers and to create a one-stop accountable,  
 20 accessible and reliable means to join workforce needs with  
 21 workforce services in the Delta.



22           **SECTION 2.** Section 57-107-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
23 reenacted as follows:

24           57-107-3. (1) The pilot program shall be administered by a  
25 Delta Workforce Coordinator for Job Retention and Expansion, whose  
26 office shall be located centrally in the Mississippi Delta region.  
27 The Delta Workforce Coordinator shall be appointed by the Delta  
28 Workforce Cabinet created under Section 57-107-5. Subject to the  
29 availability of funding, the Delta Workforce Coordinator may  
30 employ such support and clerical staff as may be necessary to  
31 accomplish the goals of the Mississippi Delta Area Workforce  
32 Training Project.

33           (2) The following are the primary duties of the Delta  
34 Workforce Coordinator:

35           (a) To arrange and conduct meetings with existing  
36 employers in the Delta region and prospective employers  
37 considering locating in the Delta region in order to identify  
38 employment training needs, opportunities, problems and possible  
39 solutions to such problems;

40           (b) To identify employer needs and challenges and to  
41 pursue opportunities in a coordinated, strategic manner for job  
42 retention and expansion through meeting individually and jointly  
43 with the Delta region's workforce team, including:

44           (i) Local and regional economic development  
45 entities and other MDA departments;



46 (ii) The Board of the Delta Workforce Investment  
47 Area;

48 (iii) The Mississippi Department of Employment  
49 Security, Office of the Governor, and local Workforce Investment  
50 Network job centers; and

51 (iv) Representatives of Coahoma Community College,  
52 Holmes Community College, Mississippi Delta Community College and  
53 Northwest Mississippi Community College;

54 (c) To organize, coordinate and support the meetings  
55 and work of the Delta Workforce Cabinet, including providing any  
56 staff support that the cabinet may request; and

57 (d) To perform such other duties as may be directed by  
58 the MDA.

59 (3) The office of the Delta Workforce Coordinator for Job  
60 Retention and Expansion shall be funded by local contributions  
61 from governmental agencies and private entities. The Delta  
62 Workforce Coordinator may receive and expend matching funds from  
63 the local county and municipal governments in the Delta region for  
64 the support of the pilot program, and any state, local or private  
65 funds available to the Mississippi Delta Area Workforce Training  
66 Project may be used by the Delta Workforce Coordinator to match  
67 any federal funds available to support the work of the pilot  
68 program.

69 **SECTION 3.** Section 57-107-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
70 reenacted as follows:



71           57-107-5. (1) There is created the Delta Workforce Cabinet,  
72 an advisory group that shall be composed of the following twelve  
73 (12) members:

74           (a) The President of Coahoma Community College or an  
75 employee of the college so designated by the president;

76           (b) The President of Holmes Community College or an  
77 employee of the college so designated by the president;

78           (c) The President of Mississippi Delta Community  
79 College or an employee of the college so designated by the  
80 president;

81           (d) The President of Northwest Mississippi Community  
82 College or an employee of the college so designated by the  
83 president;

84           (e) The Executive Director of MDA or an employee of MDA  
85 so designated by the executive director;

86           (f) The Executive Director of the Mississippi  
87 Department of Employment Security, Office of the Governor, or an  
88 employee of the department so designated by the executive  
89 director;

90           (g) The Director of the Delta Workforce Investment  
91 Area;

92           (h) Two (2) recognized Delta area business leaders to  
93 be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

94           (i) Two (2) recognized Delta area business leaders to  
95 be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor; and



96 (j) One (1) recognized Delta area business leader to be  
97 appointed by the Governor.

98 (2) It is the intent of the Legislature that the Delta  
99 Workforce Cabinet be constituted in such a way that all areas of  
100 the Delta region are represented, and the appointing authorities  
101 are encouraged to coordinate their appointments to achieve a  
102 balanced cabinet with representation from throughout the Delta  
103 region. Vacancies on the cabinet must be filled in the manner  
104 consistent with the original appointments.

105 (3) The Delta Workforce Cabinet shall meet no less than  
106 quarterly to review the ongoing work of the office of the Delta  
107 Workforce Coordinator for Job Retention and Expansion and to  
108 ensure that proper coordination of workforce services and joint  
109 cooperation are extended to existing and prospective Delta area  
110 employers on a sustaining basis.

111 **SECTION 4.** Section 57-107-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
112 reenacted as follows:

113 57-107-7. Before January 1, 2011, the Delta Workforce  
114 Coordinator for Job Retention and Expansion shall submit a report  
115 on behalf of the Delta Workforce Cabinet to the Legislature and  
116 Governor on the status of the Mississippi Delta Area Workforce  
117 Training Project. The report shall include, but not necessarily  
118 be limited to, a description of the activities undertaken through  
119 the pilot program and an evaluation of the project's effectiveness  
120 in accomplishing the goals of the pilot program.



121           **SECTION 5.** Section 39, Chapter 480, Laws of 2011, which  
122 establishes a July 1, 2016, repeal date on those statutes that  
123 create the Mississippi Delta Area Workforce Training Project, is  
124 repealed.

125           **SECTION 6.** The following shall be codified as Section  
126 57-107-9, Mississippi Code of 1972:

127           57-107-9. Sections 57-101-1 through 57-101-7 shall stand  
128 repealed on July 1, 2019.

129           **SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
130 and after July 1, 2016.

