

By: Representatives Miles, Hughes

To: Education;
Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 15

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 37-31-61 AND 37-31-69, MISSISSIPPI
2 CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE THE ESTABLISHMENT AND CONDUCTING OF
3 VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOLS IN EACH DISTRICT; TO BRING FORWARD
4 SECTIONS 37-31-63, 37-31-65 AND 37-31-67, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
5 1972, FOR THE PURPOSE OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS; AND FOR RELATED
6 PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-31-61, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 37-31-61. The State Board of Education * * * shall establish
11 and conduct schools, classes or courses, for preparing, equipping
12 and training citizens of the State of Mississippi for employment
13 in gainful vocational and technical occupations which do not
14 terminate in a bachelors degree, in conjunction with any public
15 school, agricultural high school or community/junior college.

16 The trustees of such school districts, as classified and
17 defined by law, including those already having this authority, and
18 the trustees of agricultural high schools and community/junior
19 colleges * * * shall, with the consent in writing of the State
20 Board of Education, establish and conduct such schools, classes or



21 courses, under the provisions herein stated and under the general
22 supervision of the board.

23 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-31-63, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
24 brought forward as follows:

25 37-31-63. The State Board of Education, the trustees of the
26 school districts as classified and defined by law, and the
27 trustees of agricultural high schools or community/junior
28 colleges, are hereby authorized and empowered to accept and use
29 any land, building or buildings, being either the property of the
30 State of Mississippi or of any of the school districts or
31 agricultural high schools or community/junior colleges, or being
32 the property of private sources, which may be designated, donated
33 or leased for the purpose expressed in Section 37-31-61, and to
34 use such funds as may be made available, and to accept donations
35 and contributions for supplies, equipment, and materials incident
36 to the purpose for which any such schools, classes or courses are
37 established.

38 The board, the trustees of the school districts, as
39 classified and defined by law, and the trustees of agricultural
40 high schools or community/junior colleges, are hereby authorized
41 and empowered to accept and receive donations, contributions and
42 endowments, to charge tuition and registration fees, to receive
43 payment for services rendered or commodities produced incident to
44 training in said schools, courses or classes, and to accept any



45 funds which may be made available for the purpose sought to be
46 accomplished in Section 37-31-61 from any sources.

47 **SECTION 3.** Section 37-31-65, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
48 brought forward as follows:

49 37-31-65. The funds derived from any sources for any trade
50 school, such as the Mississippi School for the Deaf, Mississippi
51 School for the Blind, the Oakley Youth Development Center, or
52 Parchman Vocational School or other agencies or institutions
53 receiving funds for the purposes of this chapter, which are not
54 operated in connection with any public school, agricultural high
55 school or community/junior college, or by virtue of any tuition,
56 registration fees, or payment for services rendered or commodities
57 produced, shall be the property of the State Board of Education.
58 In the event any public school, agricultural high school or
59 community/junior college establishes any trade school, classes or
60 courses under Section 37-31-61, such funds shall be the property
61 of such public school, agricultural high school or
62 community/junior college, to be expended by the trustees thereof,
63 and shall be expended solely for the expense of operating and
64 conducting the trade school, classes or courses in connection with
65 such public school, agricultural high school or community/junior
66 college. None of such funds shall be commingled with the funds of
67 any other of such schools, and none of such funds shall be
68 commingled with any of the other funds of any of the public
69 schools, agricultural high schools or community/junior colleges.



70 All of such funds so created shall be and are hereby declared to
71 be public funds, as defined by law.

72 **SECTION 4.** Section 37-31-67, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
73 brought forward as follows:

74 37-31-67. Sections 37-31-61 through 37-31-65 are in addition
75 to and supplementary to existing school laws, and shall not be
76 construed to repeal any laws now in existence governing any of the
77 public schools of this state or the operation thereof.

78 **SECTION 5.** Section 37-31-69, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
79 amended as follows:

80 37-31-69. (1) The school board of a local school district,
81 in its discretion, * * * shall establish and implement a
82 vocational apprenticeship program in the high schools in that
83 district through which students may earn high school units for
84 vocational experience as an alternative to those high school units
85 required by the school district in addition to the core curriculum
86 defined by the State Board of Education. The purpose of a
87 vocational apprenticeship program established pursuant to this
88 section shall be to provide those students with skills and
89 training that will lead to gainful employment in a trade or other
90 specialized vocation.

91 (2) Students who participate in the vocational
92 apprenticeship program shall be required to complete all high
93 school units comprising the core curriculum, as defined by the
94 State Board of Education. In addition, a student in the



95 vocational apprenticeship program may be awarded credit for an
96 additional eight (8) high school units earned through the
97 vocational apprenticeship program, which units shall apply toward,
98 and must be recognized by the State Board of Education in
99 fulfillment of, the local school district's graduation
100 requirements. Units may be awarded in the vocational
101 apprenticeship program, whereby a student gains actual work
102 experience through employment in a job approved by the local
103 school district. The local school district shall adopt policies
104 governing the participation of students in the vocational
105 apprenticeship program.

106 (3) Students successfully completing a vocational
107 apprenticeship program established pursuant to this section are
108 entitled to a diploma evidencing graduation from a high school in
109 Mississippi.

110 **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
111 and after July 1, 2018.

