

By: Representative Clark

To: Workforce Development

HOUSE BILL NO. 144

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 FOR 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 for 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;

16 (b) Are nationally recognized; and

17 (c) Require less than a baccalaureate degree.

18 (2) The Mississippi Skill Standards Board, hereinafter  
 19 referred to as the "board," is composed of thirteen (13) members  
 20 appointed by the Governor. The term of each board member shall



21 run concurrently with the term of the Governor. The board  
22 consists of the following members:

23 (a) Eight (8) members representing business, two (2) of  
24 whom must be from business entities that employ fewer than fifty  
25 (50) employees and one (1) each from the four-sector clusters as  
26 defined by Innovate Mississippi;

27 (b) Two (2) members representing workers;

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

29 (d) One (1) member representing two-year public  
30 postsecondary education; and

31 (e) One (1) member representing four-year public  
32 postsecondary education.

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

35 (4) The board shall:

36 (a) Validate nationally established skill standards to  
37 guide curriculum development, training, assessment and  
38 certification of workforce skills;

39 (b) Convene industry groups to develop skill standards  
40 and certification procedures for industries and occupations in  
41 which standards have not been established or adopted and recognize  
42 the skill standards and certification procedures;

43 (c) Review standards developed by other states and  
44 nations and enter into agreements for mutual recognition of  
45 credentials to enhance portability of skills;



46 (d) Promote, in collaboration with the secondary and  
47 postsecondary entities, the use of standards and credentials among  
48 employers; and

49 (e) Develop a memorandum of understanding by and  
50 between the workforce and education entities for the effective  
51 development, implementation, operations and outcomes of the skills  
52 standards effort.

53 (5) The board shall meet at the call of the presiding  
54 officer as often as necessary to accomplish its work, and the  
55 board shall meet a minimum of once each quarter in a fiscal year.

56 (6) A member of the board is not entitled to compensation  
57 for service on the board but is entitled to reimbursement for  
58 reasonable mileage and expenses incurred in performing board  
59 duties as provided in Section 25-3-41.

60 (7) The Mississippi Community College Board shall provide  
61 staff support for the board as necessary.

62 (8) The board shall report periodically to the Governor and  
63 shall provide annual reports to the Governor, the Legislature and  
64 the Mississippi Community College Board.

65 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
66 and after July 1, 2018.

