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To: Universities and
Colleges

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 405

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE "MISSISSIPPI CAREER-TECH SCHOLARS
2 PROGRAM" FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING LAST MINUTE SCHOLARSHIPS
3 AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ELIGIBLE STUDENTS WHO ENROLL IN
4 CERTAIN CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT PUBLIC
5 COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES, WHICH SUCH PROGRAMS ARE IDENTIFIED
6 THROUGH SECTOR ANALYSIS TO MEET STATE WORKFORCE DEMANDS; TO
7 PRESCRIBE THE CRITERIA THAT QUALIFIES A STUDENT FOR ELIGIBILITY TO
8 PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE THAT THE BENEFITS OF THE
9 PROGRAM ARE NONTRANSFERRABLE, AND ARE SPECIFIC TO THE PUBLIC
10 COMMUNITY OR JUNIOR COLLEGE OF INITIAL ENROLLMENT; TO PROVIDE THAT
11 A STUDENT IS NO LONGER ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM ONCE THE STUDENT
12 EARNS AN ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE FROM A PUBLIC
13 COMMUNITY OR JUNIOR COLLEGE; TO REQUIRE THE MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY
14 COLLEGE BOARD, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE POSTSECONDARY FINANCIAL
15 ASSISTANCE BOARD, TO PROVIDE AN ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT TO THE
16 LEGISLATURE BY SEPTEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR, TO INCLUDE NUMBER OF
17 PARTICIPANTS, PROGRAM COSTS AND APPROVED CAREER-TECH PROGRAMS; TO
18 REQUIRE THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MDA), IN
19 COLLABORATION WITH THE MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD AND THE
20 MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES, TO
21 SELECT SECTOR STRATEGIES AND ELIGIBLE CAREER-TECH PROGRAMS; TO
22 REQUIRE THE STATE LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM TO PROVIDE THE
23 INFORMATION USED TO IDENTIFY OCCUPATIONAL SECTORS WHERE THE MOST
24 OPPORTUNITIES AND WORKFORCE NEEDS EXIST; TO REQUIRE MDA TO PROMOTE
25 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN ELIGIBLE OCCUPATIONS; TO REQUIRE THE
26 STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD TO COORDINATE WORKFORCE
27 ACTIVITIES THAT PROVIDE THE NECESSARY ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES
28 TO ASSIST PARTICIPANTS IN SUCCEEDING IN THE PROGRAM AND IN THE
29 LABOR MARKET; TO REQUIRE EACH PUBLIC AND JUNIOR COLLEGE TO HAVE A
30 MINIMUM OF ONE CAREER-TECH PROGRAM APPROVED FOR PARTICIPATION IN
31 THE PROGRAM, WHICH IS CONSISTENT WITH SECTORS IDENTIFIED BY THE
32 FOUR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS IN THE STATE; TO REQUIRE THE
33 OCCUPATIONAL SECTORS AND CAREER-TECH PROGRAMS TO BE REVIEWED EVERY
34 TWO YEARS BY MDA AND THE MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD; TO



PROVIDE THAT THE PROGRAM SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE MISSISSIPPI
COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD AND THE MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES; TO PROVIDE THAT NO GENERAL FUNDS
APPROPRIATED AND EXPENDED FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM SHALL BE
USED TO REPLACE ANY OTHER FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL OR INSTITUTIONAL
FUNDS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE
PROGRAM IS CONTINGENT UPON LEGISLATION APPROPRIATIONS FOR SUCH
PURPOSES; TO PROVIDE THAT THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE PROGRAM SHALL
BE MADE TO THE STATE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE OF THE POSTSECONDARY
EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BOARD AND SHALL BE IN ADDITION TO
THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION RECEIVED BY EACH COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR
COLLEGE; TO PROVIDE THAT ANY UNFUNDED TUITION SHALL BE THE
RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT; TO PROVIDE THAT ANY UNEXPENDED
FUNDS OF THE AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED SHALL NOT LAPSE INTO THE GENERAL
FUND AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR, BUT MAY BE CARRIED FORWARD TO
THE SUCCEEDING FISCAL YEAR; TO PROVIDE PRIORITY TO MILITARY
PERSONNEL IF PROGRAM ENROLLMENT REACHES CAPACITY; TO BRING FORWARD
SECTIONS 37-103-7 AND 37-103-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, FOR THE
PURPOSE OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 1 through 6 of this act shall be known
as the "Mississippi Career-Tech Scholars Program Act."

SECTION 2. (1) The Mississippi Career-Tech Scholars Program
is established to serve as a last dollar scholarship program for
eligible students by providing financial assistance to those
students who enroll in career and technical education certificate
and associate of applied science programs identified through
sector analysis to meet the workforce demands of the state.

(2) To be eligible to participate in the program, a student
must:

(a) Be a legal resident of the State of Mississippi as
provided under Section 37-103-7 or Section 37-103-15, if legally
married;



68 (b) Be admitted to a public community or junior college
69 and apply for and accept all offers for all available federal,
70 state and institutional aid;

71 (c) Enroll in a minimum of fifteen (15) credit hours in
72 an approved and/or identified career-tech program offered at a
73 public community or junior college. For programs with less than
74 fifteen (15) credit hours per semester, work-based learning (WBL)
75 credits may be included to meet the minimum of fifteen (15) credit
76 hour enrollment; and

77 (d) For participants employed full time, the student
78 must provide a letter from the employer to certify employment and
79 must maintain a minimum of nine (9) credit hours each semester,
80 which may include, work-based learning credits in a credit-bearing
81 approved/identified career-tech program offered at one of the
82 public community or junior colleges.

83 (3) Once admitted into the program, participating students
84 must:

85 (a) Maintain a 2.0 GPA each semester; and

86 (b) Participate in available work-based learning
87 opportunities in the selected field of study, if the business or
88 industry provides this option.

89 (4) The benefits of the Mississippi Career-Tech Scholars
90 Program are nontransferrable, and are specific to the public
91 community or junior college of initial enrollment. A student who



transfers to another public community or junior college shall not be eligible for the program at the transfer institution.

(5) For programs eligible for the Mississippi Career-Tech Scholars Program, participant eligibility will end once the participant's total attempted credit hours equals the program's established and approved total credit hours.

SECTION 3. By September 1 of each program year, the Mississippi Community College Board, with assistance from the Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board, shall provide to the Legislature an evaluation of the program from the previous fiscal year. The report shall include the number of participants in the program, the cost associated with the program, approved career-tech programs in which participants enrolled and progress made by participants toward a degree or certificate.

SECTION 4. (1) Sector strategies and eligible career-tech programs shall be selected by the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), in collaboration with the Mississippi Community College Board and the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges, which shall work to identify eligible occupations within sectors of interest to the state and work with local economic developers to identify eligible occupations in sectors of importance at the local level.

(2) The State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) shall provide the information to identify those occupational sectors where the most opportunities and workforce needs exist.



117 (3) The Mississippi Development Authority shall be
118 responsible for promoting economic opportunities in eligible
119 occupations for individuals who engage in programs designed to
120 help them gain the necessary academic and industry credentials
121 along with life and practical skills to include apprenticeship
122 programs or the Mississippi Integrated Basic Education and Skills
123 Training (MI-BEST) program offered at community and junior
124 colleges.

125 (4) The State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) shall be
126 responsible for coordinating workforce activities that will
127 provide the necessary additional support services to assist
128 participants in succeeding in the community college program and in
129 the labor market.

130 (5) (a) Each public community and junior college shall have
131 a minimum of one (1) approved career-tech program to participate
132 in the scholarship program.

133 (b) Approved programs shall be consistent with those
134 sectors identified by the four (4) workforce development districts
135 across the state, and the career-tech programs shall lead to
136 high-skill, high-wage jobs.

137 (c) Sectors and eligible career-tech programs will be
138 reviewed every two (2) years through a collaborative process
139 between collaboration with the Mississippi Community College Board
140 and the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges
141 to ensure job availability remains current. Student participants



142 already enrolled in an eligible program prior to the review
143 process aforementioned will remain eligible until completion of a
144 certificate or associate of applied science in the program
145 provided all other eligibility requirements are met.

146 **SECTION 5.** The Mississippi Career-Tech Scholars Program
147 shall be administered by the Mississippi Community College Board
148 and the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges,
149 which shall establish a statewide application, along with rules
150 and regulations to govern the program. The Postsecondary
151 Education Financial Assistance Board shall receive and disburse
152 funds for the program.

153 **SECTION 6.** (1) It is the intention of the Legislature that
154 no general funds authorized to be expended for the purpose of the
155 Mississippi Career-Tech Scholars Program shall be used to replace
156 federal funds, other state funds, local government funds and/or
157 institutional funds, which are being used to assist students with
158 the cost of tuition authorized under the provisions of this act
159 and which are withdrawn and no longer available.

160 (2) The program shall be contingent upon the availability of
161 funds appropriated by the Legislature. Funds appropriated for the
162 program shall be in addition to the annual appropriations received
163 by each community and junior college for operations.

164 (3) (a) The Mississippi Community College Board shall
165 determine, for each fall and spring semester, the state's actual



share of the cost of the program for each community and junior college.

(b) If legislative funding is not sufficient to meet the needs of all eligible students, the State Financial Aid Office shall reduce the allocation of funds to each college in proportion to the state's actual share of the cost of the program for each community and junior college, in order to determine the unfunded tuition cost at each college and to calculate the reduced amount to allocate and distribute to each college.

(4) Funding for the Mississippi Career-Tech Scholars Program shall be appropriated to the State Financial Aid Office of the Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board.

(5) Any funds appropriated for this act which are not expended during the fiscal year for which they were appropriated shall not lapse into the State General Fund, but shall remain inviolate, and shall be carried forward for the same purposes during the succeeding fiscal year.

(6) Public and private entities that provide financial contributions to existing community or junior college tuition guarantee programs may and are encouraged to continue to do so.

(7) In accordance with Section 37-103-25, each community and junior college shall be solely responsible for setting tuition and fees to be paid by students.

(8) Students who participate in the program shall be eligible for community and junior college reimbursement purposes



of state appropriations, provided that said students meet established admission and attendance requirements when possible.

(9) Should approved career-tech programs reach enrollment capacity, priority shall be given to military personnel.

SECTION 7. Section 37-103-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

37-103-7. For purposes of determining whether a person pays out-of-state or in-state tuition for attendance at universities and community and junior colleges, the residence of a person less than twenty-one (21) years of age is that of the father, the mother or a general guardian duly appointed by a proper court in Mississippi. If a court has granted custody of the minor to one (1) parent, the residence of the minor is that of the parent who was granted custody by the court. If both parents are dead, the residence of the minor is that of the last surviving parent at the time of that parent's death, unless the minor lives with a general guardian duly appointed by a proper court of Mississippi, in which case his residence becomes that of the guardian. A student residing within the State of Mississippi who, upon registration at a Mississippi institution of higher learning or community college, presents a transcript demonstrating graduation from a Mississippi secondary school and who has been a secondary school student in Mississippi for not less than the final four (4) years of secondary school attendance shall not be required to pay out-of-state tuition. This section shall not apply to the



216 residence of a person as it relates to residency for voter
217 registration or voting.

218 **SECTION 8.** Section 37-103-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
219 brought forward as follows:

220 37-103-15. A married person may claim the residence status
221 of his or her spouse, or he or she may claim independent residence
222 status under the same regulations set forth in Section 37-103-13
223 as any other adult.

224 **SECTION 9.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
225 and after July 1, 2018.

