

By: Representative Bell (21st)

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1146

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO  
 2 DEVELOP AN ALTERNATIVE TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL TRACK CURRICULUM  
 3 FOR STUDENTS NOT INTENDING TO PURSUE A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE; TO  
 4 REQUIRE THE TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL COURSES TO BE IN THE SCIENCE,  
 5 TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS FIELDS AND TO FOCUS ON  
 6 TEACHING COURSE OBJECTIVES WITH AN EMPHASIS ON APPLICATION OF THE  
 7 KNOWLEDGE GAINED TO FUNDAMENTAL TECHNICAL SKILLS REQUIRED FOR  
 8 ENTRY INTO A TECHNICAL VOCATION OR POST-SECONDARY TRAINING  
 9 PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE THAT STUDENTS WHO LATER WISH TO PURSUE A  
 10 BACCALAUREATE DEGREE MAY ENROLL IN REMEDIATION COURSES, IF  
 11 NECESSARY, AT A COMMUNITY OR JUNIOR COLLEGE; TO REQUIRE THE  
 12 ALTERNATIVE CURRICULUM TO BE AVAILABLE TO NINTH GRADE STUDENTS  
 13 BEGINNING IN THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION  
 14 37-16-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PRESCRIBES A CAREER  
 15 TRACK PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN STUDENTS THAT IS BEING DISCONTINUED WITH  
 16 THE CLASS OF 2021, FOR PURPOSES OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; AND FOR  
 17 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

19 **SECTION 1.** (1) The State Department of Education shall  
 20 develop a technical and vocational track curriculum for those  
 21 students who do not plan to pursue a baccalaureate degree upon  
 22 high school graduation but intend to pursue vocational training or  
 23 entry into the workforce in a career-technical field. The  
 24 technical and vocational track curriculum shall be considered an  
 25 alternative to the college preparatory curriculum and must consist



26 of challenging modern career-technical courses in the fields of  
27 science, technology, engineering and mathematics which will  
28 prepare students to enter directly into the workforce or pursue  
29 post-secondary training and certification in a technical  
30 occupation. In designing the curriculum, the department shall  
31 endeavor, to the extent possible, to develop each alternative  
32 technical and vocational course to correlate with an academic core  
33 course required for a standard diploma. The technical and  
34 vocational track courses offered as alternatives to required  
35 academic core courses shall fulfill the requirements for  
36 graduation from high school with a standard diploma and must equip  
37 students with a mastery of the same objectives as the academic  
38 courses but with an emphasis on the application of those  
39 objectives to fundamental technical skills necessary for a person  
40 to succeed in a technical or vocational occupation.

41 (2) A student earning a standard high school diploma after  
42 completion of the technical and vocational track curriculum is  
43 entitled to all the rights and privileges conferred upon a student  
44 who earns a standard high school diploma after completing a  
45 college preparatory curriculum. Any such student who subsequently  
46 desires to pursue enrollment in a baccalaureate degree program  
47 must be allowed to participate in remediation courses, including  
48 online courses, which may be made available through a community or  
49 junior college if such remediation is necessary to prepare the  
50 student for the baccalaureate degree course of study.



51 (3) The technical and vocational track curriculum required  
52 under this section must be developed and implemented so that it is  
53 made available to students entering the ninth grade in the  
54 2019-2020 school year and thereafter.

55 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-16-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
56 brought forward as follows:

57 37-16-17. (1) Purpose. (a) The purpose of this section is  
58 to create a quality option in Mississippi's high schools for  
59 students not wishing to pursue a baccalaureate degree, which shall  
60 consist of challenging academic courses and modern  
61 career-technical studies. The goal for students pursuing the  
62 career track is to graduate from high school with a standard  
63 diploma and credit toward a community college certification in a  
64 career-technical field. These students also shall be encouraged  
65 to take the national assessment in the career-technical field in  
66 which they become certified.

67 (b) The State Board of Education shall develop and  
68 adopt course and curriculum requirements for career track programs  
69 offered by local public school boards in accordance with this  
70 section. The Mississippi Community College Board and the State  
71 Board of Education jointly shall determine course and curriculum  
72 requirements for the career track program.

73 (2) Alternative career track; description; curriculum. (a)  
74 A career track shall provide a student with greater technical  
75 skill and a strong academic core and shall be offered to each high



76 school student enrolled in a public school district. The career  
77 track program shall be linked to postsecondary options and shall  
78 prepare students to pursue either a degree or certification from a  
79 postsecondary institution, an industry-based training or  
80 certification, an apprenticeship, the military, or immediate  
81 entrance into a career field. The career track shall be designed  
82 primarily for those students who are not college bound and shall  
83 provide them with alternatives to entrance into a four-year  
84 university or college after high school graduation.

85 (b) Students pursuing a career track shall be afforded  
86 the opportunity to dually enroll in a community or technical  
87 college or to participate in a business internship or work-study  
88 program, when such opportunities are available and appropriate.

89 (c) Each public school district shall offer a career  
90 track program approved by the State Board of Education.

91 (d) Students in a career track program shall complete  
92 an academic core of courses and a career and technical sequence of  
93 courses.

94 (e) The twenty-one (21) course unit requirements for  
95 the career track shall consist of the following:

96 (i) At least four (4) English credits, including  
97 English I and English II.

98 (ii) At least three (3) mathematics credits,  
99 including Algebra I.



100                   (iii) At least three (3) science credits,  
101 including one (1) unit of biology.

102                   (iv) At least three (3) social studies credits,  
103 including one (1) unit of U.S. History and one (1) unit of  
104 Mississippi Studies/U.S. Government.

105                   (v) At least one-half (1/2) credit in health or  
106 physical education.

107                   (vi) At least four (4) credits in career and  
108 technical education courses in the dual enrollment-dual credit  
109 programs authorized under Section 37-15-38.

110                   (vii) At least one (1) credit in integrated  
111 technology with optional end of course testing.

112                   (viii) At least two and one-half (2-1/2) credits  
113 in additional electives or career and technical education courses  
114 required by the local school board, as approved by the State Board  
115 of Education. Academic courses within the career track of the  
116 standard diploma shall provide the knowledge and skill necessary  
117 for proficiency on the state subject area tests.

118           (3) Nothing in this section shall disallow the development  
119 of a dual enrollment program with a technical college so long as  
120 an individual school district, with approval from the State  
121 Department of Education, agrees to implement such a program in  
122 connection with a technical college and the agreement is also  
123 approved by the proprietary school's commission.



124           (4) The career track program for students not pursuing a  
125 Baccalaureate Degree shall not be available to any student  
126 entering the Ninth Grade in the 2017-2018 school year or  
127 thereafter.

128           **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
129 and after July 1, 2018.

