

By: Representatives Staples, Dixon, Ford

To: Education

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 723

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
2 VICKSBURG-WARREN SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE CLAIBORNE COUNTY BOARD OF
3 EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ENTERGY GRAND GULF
4 NUCLEAR STATION, WARREN COUNTY AND THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT
5 AUTHORITY FOR A NUCLEAR HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMY; TO PRESCRIBE THE
6 MEMBERSHIP OF THE NUCLEAR HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMY PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL
7 TO ADMINISTER THE ACADEMY; TO PROVIDE THAT THE ACADEMY MODEL SHALL
8 PROVIDE QUALIFIED STUDENTS FROM EIGHTH GRADE THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL
9 WITH CAREER EXPLORATION AND INTERNSHIPS WITHIN THE ENTERGY GRAND
10 GULF NUCLEAR STATION; TO PROVIDE CRITERIA FOR THE NUCLEAR HIGH
11 SCHOOL ACADEMY; TO AUTHORIZE THE USE OF BUILDINGS, TEACHERS AND
12 TRANSPORTATION FUNDING FOR THE OPERATION OF THE ACADEMY TO BE
13 PROVIDED ON A PHASED-IN BASIS; TO ESTABLISH A NUCLEAR ACADEMY FUND
14 FOR START-UP AND OPERATIONAL COSTS ADMINISTERED BY THE MISSISSIPPI
15 DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY CONSISTING OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDS; AND
16 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

18 **SECTION 1.** (1) The Board of Trustees of the
19 Vicksburg-Warren School District and the Claiborne County Board of
20 Education are authorized to make application to the Mississippi
21 Development Authority for the approval of entering into a
22 Memorandum of Understanding with the Entergy Grand Gulf Nuclear
23 Station and Warren County and the State of Mississippi for the
24 establishment of a partnership for the operation of a Nuclear High
25 School Academy. The purpose of the Nuclear High School Academy



26 (Nuclear Academy) shall be to provide qualified students attending
27 school in Warren and/or Claiborne county in the eighth through
28 twelfth grade with career education, student internships and
29 continuing education for careers at the Entergy Grand Gulf Nuclear
30 Station.

31 (2) (a) The Nuclear High School Academy shall be under the
32 administrative direction of the Nuclear High School Academy
33 Partnership Council (Partnership Council) consisting of one (1)
34 member from each of the following entities:

35 (i) The Chief Executive Officer of the Grand Gulf
36 Nuclear Station, or his designee, who shall serve as chairman of
37 the council, and who shall serve for four (4) years;

38 (ii) The superintendent of the Vicksburg-Warren
39 School District, who shall serve for four (4) years;

40 (iii) The superintendent of the Claiborne County
41 School District, who shall serve for four (4) years;

42 (iv) A designee of the Mississippi Development
43 Authority, appointed by the executive director of MDA, and which
44 may be the executive director, who shall serve three (3) years;

45 (v) A member of the Board of Trustees of the
46 Vicksburg-Warren School District, appointed by the Vicksburg Mayor
47 and Board of Alderman, who shall serve two (2) years;

48 (vi) A member of the Claiborne County Board of
49 Education, appointed by the Claiborne County Board of Supervisors,
50 who shall serve two (2) years;



51 (vii) A member of the Warren County Board of
52 Supervisors, appointed by president of the board, who may appoint
53 himself or herself, and, who shall serve one (1) year; and

54 (viii) A member of the Vicksburg Chamber of
55 Commerce, appointed by the chairman of the board of directors, who
56 may appoint himself or herself, and who shall serve one (1) year.

57 (b) Members of the Partnership Council shall serve
58 staggered terms, as prescribed in paragraph (a) of this
59 subsection, commencing with the initial appointments made in 2019,
60 and shall thereafter, upon the expiration of the initial term, the
61 succeeding appointees shall serve a term of four (4) years.

62 Members of the council may be reappointed to the council by the
63 original appointing authority without limitation on the number of
64 terms served. In the event of a vacancy on the council, the
65 original appointing authority shall appoint a replacement to
66 complete the unexpired term of the member creating the vacancy.

67 (c) The Partnership Council shall meet on or before
68 August 1, 2019, and organize for business and adopt necessary
69 regulations for the operation of the Nuclear High School Academy.
70 Meetings shall be held upon the call of the chairman and shall be
71 coordinated by the Vicksburg Chamber of Commerce.

72 (3) The Mississippi Development Authority shall promulgate
73 administrative rules and regulations to prescribe the criteria to
74 be used by the Partnership Council in the establishment of the



75 Nuclear High School Academy, which shall include the following
76 criteria:

77 (a) This academy model will place a high value on
78 first-hand experience in order that students can make informed
79 choices about a career in nuclear energy;

80 (b) The Nuclear Academy will be combined with the
81 current academy model in existence at Vicksburg-Warren School
82 District and the Claiborne County School District;

83 (c) Within the academy model shall be multiple
84 curriculum options giving the students the opportunity to explore
85 different career options before selecting a career track.

86 Students will complete a minimum of three (3) courses in their
87 curriculum option while also completing the courses necessary for
88 admission to a college or university. At the end of the ninth
89 grade, students decide which career academy they will join for
90 their last three (3) years of high school and the Nuclear Academy
91 will be one (1) of these choices for the students;

92 (d) Participation in the Nuclear Academy shall be
93 limited to Mississippi residents who are entering Grades 8 through
94 12 in the Vicksburg-Warren School district or the Claiborne County
95 School District and who have submitted to the Mississippi
96 Development Authority a completed application on the form designed
97 and supplied by the MDA. The MDA shall make applications
98 available to each school district on October 1 of each year and
99 shall establish the deadline for accepting applications. Upon the



100 closing date for acceptance of applications, MDA shall forward the
101 completed applications to the Principal of the Nuclear Academy who
102 shall determine the number of openings available for participation
103 in the academy for the upcoming school year. Students
104 participating in the Nuclear Academy shall be counted in the
105 average daily attendance of the home district of the residence of
106 the student for purposes of the Mississippi Adequate Education
107 Program, and the transfer of such students into the Nuclear
108 Academy program shall not require approval of the local school
109 board;

110 (e) The Nuclear Academy shall be under the
111 administrative direction of a principal appointed by the Nuclear
112 High School Academy Partnership Council. The team of teachers at
113 the Nuclear Academy shall be appointed by the principal. Teachers
114 shall be employed on extended employment contracts and compensated
115 on a salary schedule developed by the Partnership Council.
116 Operational costs and capital outlay funds for the Nuclear Academy
117 shall be funded by a network of business and community partners
118 with the approval of the Partnership Council. Existing facilities
119 of the Vicksburg-Warren School District, the Claiborne County
120 School District and the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station may be used for
121 conducting instructional classes for the Nuclear Academy.
122 Transportation for students attending classes at the Nuclear
123 Academy shall be provided by the Vicksburg-Warren School District



124 or the Claiborne County School District or by the Grand Gulf
125 Nuclear Station;

126 (f) No students may be served during the first six (6)
127 months of the first year of operation, and this time shall be
128 utilized for recruiting personnel, establishing curriculum,
129 ordering equipment, and establishing classrooms. After the
130 Nuclear Academy is operational, eighth-grade students are provided
131 the opportunity to explore nuclear industry career options and
132 university options before selecting a career option at the Nuclear
133 Academy. Sophomores at the Nuclear Academy will participate in
134 industry-related field trips to experience first-hand work at the
135 Grand Gulf Nuclear Station and related industries. Juniors at the
136 academy will engage in a full-day job shadow of a professional in
137 that career. Seniors will complete an internship or
138 service-learning project;

139 (g) Teachers at the academy will complete multiday
140 externships with business partners between semesters to create a
141 learning environment that equals the real-world experience;

142 (h) Students have the opportunity to earn college and
143 university credit and industry credentials while attending the
144 Nuclear Academy aligned to the community colleges and university
145 curriculum requirements;

146 (i) The Nuclear Academy shall be phased in as a pilot
147 program in order to share facilities, equipment, online learning,
148 professional development, mentoring and cost sharing of expenses



149 within the existing Vicksburg-Warren/Claiborne County school
150 districts in or to fully implement the model within three (3)
151 years; and

152 (j) The Nuclear Academy may be operated on a flexible
153 school calendar using alternative education programs and services
154 delivered online or in nontraditional hours and which may be
155 jointly provided in cooperation with another school district and
156 with the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, notwithstanding any statute
157 or accreditation standard to the contrary.

158 (4) (a) There is established in the State Treasury a fund
159 to be known as the "Nuclear High School Academy Fund." The
160 purpose of the fund is to provide necessary financial support to
161 local school districts and the Mississippi Development Authority
162 for start-up costs and costs associated with implementing and
163 operating the Nuclear Academy established under this section. The
164 fund may consist of monies obtained from grants from any public or
165 private source. The Mississippi Development Authority shall
166 administer the fund pursuant to appropriation by the Legislature,
167 and may apply for any grants from the federal government or
168 private sources.

169 (b) The Mississippi Development Authority shall prepare
170 a three-year budget proposal for the operation of the Nuclear
171 Academy which shall include staff and liaison salary estimates,
172 equipment and facility costs and job demand estimates. This



173 budget shall be submitted to the Governor, the Legislative Budget
174 Office and the Partnership Council and updated annually.

175 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
176 and after July 1, 2019.

