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To: Workforce Development;  
Universities and Colleges

## HOUSE BILL NO. 773

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT THE STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD  
2 OR AN APPLICABLE OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BOARD SHALL ACCEPT  
3 MILITARY EDUCATION, TRAINING AND SERVICE AS QUALIFIED CREDENTIALS  
4 OTHERWISE REQUIRED OF AN APPLICANT FOR A LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE;  
5 TO DEFINE TERMS USED IN THIS ACT; TO SPECIFY THE PROFESSIONAL  
6 OCCUPATIONS AND OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BOARDS TO WHICH THE  
7 PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT APPLY; TO REQUIRE EVIDENCE OF SUCCESSFUL  
8 COMPLETION OF THE EDUCATION, TRAINING OR SERVICE AS A MEMBER OF  
9 THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES, THE UNITED STATES RESERVES,  
10 THE NATIONAL GUARD OF ANY STATE, THE MILITARY RESERVES OF ANY  
11 STATE OR THE NAVAL MILITIA OF ANY STATE TO QUALIFY FOR SUCH  
12 BENEFIT; TO PRESCRIBE THE PROCESS BY WHICH ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS  
13 SHALL ADHERE TO IN APPLYING FOR A TEMPORARY PRACTICE PERMIT,  
14 LICENSE OF CERTIFICATION; TO REQUIRE THE STATE WORKFORCE  
15 INVESTMENT BOARD OR APPLICABLE OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BOARD SHALL  
16 EXPEDITE THE PROCEDURE FOR ISSUANCE OF A LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE  
17 FOR APPLICANTS WHO ARE ON ACTIVE DUTY; TO AMEND SECTION 37-101-13,  
18 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE  
19 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING AND THE MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY  
20 COLLEGE BOARD TO REQUIRE THE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS UNDER  
21 THEIR GOVERNANCE TO IMPLEMENT A POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR THE  
22 ACCEPTANCE OF ACADEMIC CREDITS RECEIVED BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED  
23 FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES UPON PRESENTATION OF EVIDENCE OF  
24 SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF RELEVANT MILITARY EDUCATION, TRAINING OR  
25 SERVICE; TO AMEND SECTION 37-153-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
26 REQUIRE THE STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD, IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
27 THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING AND  
28 THE MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD TO FACILITATE THE  
29 DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A STATEWIDE POLICY AND PROCEDURE  
30 FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF ACADEMIC CREDITS RECEIVED BY MEMBERS OF THE  
31 ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES UPON PRESENTATION OF EVIDENCE OF  
32 SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF RELEVANT MILITARY EDUCATION, TRAINING OR  
33 SERVICE; TO BRING FORWARD SECTION 73-50-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF



34 1972, FOR THE PURPOSE OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS; AND FOR RELATED  
35 PURPOSES.

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

37 **SECTION 1.** As used in this act the following terms shall  
38 have the meanings:

39 (a) "Board" includes the boards and commissions listed  
40 in Section 2 of this act.

41 (b) "Department" means the Department of Commerce,  
42 Community, and Economic Development.

43 (c) "Director" means the executive director of the  
44 State Workforce Investment Board.

45 (d) "License" means a business license or a license,  
46 certificate, permit or registration or similar evidence of  
47 authority issued for an occupation by the State Workforce  
48 Investment Board or by one (1) of the boards listed in Section 2  
49 of this act.

50 (e) "Licensee" means a person who holds a license.

51 (f) "Occupation" means a trade or profession listed in  
52 Section 2 of this act.

53 **SECTION 2.** This act applies to:

54 (a) The Board of Public Accountancy under Chapter 33,  
55 Title 73, Mississippi Code of 1972;

56 (b) The regulation of acupuncturists under Chapter 71,  
57 Title 73, Mississippi Code of 1972;

58 (c) The State Board of Architecture and the regulation  
59 of engineers and land surveyors under Chapter 1, Title 73,



60 Mississippi Code of 1972, and Chapter 13, Title 73, Mississippi  
61 Code of 1972;

62 (d) The Athletic Commission under Chapter 75, Title 75,  
63 Mississippi Code of 1972;

64 (e) The regulation of athletic trainers under Chapter  
65 55, Title 73, Mississippi Code of 1972;

66 (f) The regulation of audiologists and speech-language  
67 pathologists under Chapter 38, Title 73, Mississippi Code of 1972;

68 (g) The Board of Barber Examiners and the State  
69 Cosmetology Board under Chapter 5, Title 73, Mississippi Code of  
70 1972, and Chapter 7, Title 73, Mississippi Code of 1972;

71 (h) The regulation of behavior analysts under Chapter  
72 75, Title 73, Mississippi Code of 1972;

73 (i) The State Board of Chiropractic Examiners under  
74 Chapter 6, Title 73, Mississippi Code of 1972;

75 (j) The regulation of construction contractors and home  
76 inspectors under Chapter 60, Title 73, Mississippi Code of 1972;

77 (k) The Board of Dental Examiners under Chapter 9,  
78 Title 73, Mississippi Code of 1972;

79 (l) The regulation of dietitians and nutritionists  
80 under Chapter 10, Title 73, Mississippi Code of 1972;

81 (m) The regulation of midwives under Section 41-39-3;

82 (n) The regulation of dispensing opticians under  
83 Chapter 19, Title 73, Mississippi Code of 1972;



84                   (o)   The Board of Registered Professional Geologists  
85   under Chapter 63, Title 73, Mississippi Code of 1972;  
86                   (p)   The regulation of private professional guardians  
87   and private professional conservators under Chapter 13, Title 93,  
88   Mississippi Code of 1972;  
89                   (q)   The regulation of hearing aid dealers under Chapter  
90   14, Title 73, Mississippi Code of 1972;  
91                   (r)   The regulation of marriage and family therapists  
92   under Chapter 54, Title 73, Mississippi Code of 1972;  
93                   (s)   The State Board of Massage Therapy under Chapter  
94   67, Title 73, Mississippi Code of 1972;  
95                   (t)   The State Board of Medical Licensure under Chapter  
96   25, Title 73, Mississippi Code of 1972;  
97                   (u)   The State Board of Funeral Services under Chapter  
98   11, Title 73, Mississippi Code of 1972;  
99                   (v)   The Mississippi Board of Nursing under Chapter 15,  
100   Title 73, Mississippi Code of 1972;  
101                   (w)   The Board of Nursing Home Administrators under  
102   Chapter 17, Title 73, Mississippi Code of 1972;  
103                   (x)   The State Board of Optometry under Chapter 19,  
104   Title 73, Mississippi Code of 1972;  
105                   (y)   The regulation of pawnbrokers under Chapter 67,  
106   Title 75, Mississippi Code of 1972;  
107                   (z)   The State Board of Pharmacy under Chapter 21, Title  
108   73, Mississippi Code of 1972;



(aa) The State Board of Physical Therapy and the regulation of occupational therapists under Chapter 23, Title 73, Mississippi Code of 1972, and Chapter 24, Title 73, Mississippi Code of 1972;

(bb) The Mississippi Board of Examiners for Licensed Professional Counselors under Chapter 30, Title 73, Mississippi Code of 1972;

(cc) The Board of Psychological Examiners under Chapter 31, Title 73, Mississippi Code of 1972;

(dd) The Mississippi Real Estate Commission under Chapter 35, Title 73, Mississippi Code of 1972;

(ee) The Mississippi Real Estate Appraiser and Licensing and Certification Board under Chapter 34, Title 73, Mississippi Code of 1972;

(ff) The Board of Examiners for Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists under Chapter 53, Title 73, Mississippi Code of 1972; and

(gg) The Board of Veterinary Medicine under Chapter 39, Title 73, Mississippi Code of 1972.

**SECTION 3.** (1) Notwithstanding another provision of law, the State Workforce Investment Board or an applicable occupational licensing board shall accept military education, training and service for some or all of the qualifications otherwise required of an applicant for a license or certificate issued under this chapter if:



134           (a) The State Workforce Investment Board or an  
135 applicable occupational licensing board determines that the  
136 military education, training and service is substantially  
137 equivalent to some or all of the qualifications otherwise required  
138 of an applicant for a license or certificate issued under this  
139 chapter; and

140           (b) The applicant provides satisfactory evidence of  
141 successful completion of the education, training or service as a  
142 member of the Armed Forces of the United States, the United States  
143 Reserves, the National Guard of any state, the Military Reserves  
144 of any state or the Naval Militia of any state.

145           (2) If the department issues temporary practice permits as  
146 authorized by the State Workforce Investment Board or an  
147 applicable occupational licensing board, the State Workforce  
148 Investment Board or the applicable occupational licensing board  
149 shall issue a temporary license or certificate to a person who:

150           (a) Applies to the State Workforce Investment Board or  
151 an applicable occupational licensing board in a manner prescribed  
152 by the State Workforce Investment Board or the applicable  
153 occupational licensing board;

154           (b) Meets the requirements of Section 73-50-1;

155           (c) While in the Armed Forces of the United States or  
156 any state, as described in subsection (1) of this section:

157           (i) Held a current license or certificate in  
158 another state, district or territory of the United States,



159 practiced in the area of the license or certificate, and  
160 maintained the license or certificate in active status before and  
161 at the time of application for a license or certificate under this  
162 subsection; or

163                   (ii) Was awarded a degree, diploma or certificate  
164 by a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States or any state,  
165 as described in subsection (1) of this section, that met standards  
166 for an equivalent license or a certificate of technical training;

167                   (d) If required by the State Workforce Investment Board  
168 or applicable occupational licensing board for obtaining a license  
169 in the applicant's profession, has been fingerprinted and has  
170 provided the fees required by the Department of Public Safety for  
171 criminal justice information and a national criminal history  
172 record check. The fingerprints and fees shall be forwarded to the  
173 Department of Public Safety to obtain a report of criminal justice  
174 information and a national criminal history record check;

175                   (e) Has not committed an offense in any jurisdiction  
176 that would have constituted grounds for the refusal, suspension or  
177 revocation of a license or certificate to practice that occupation  
178 under this act at the time the offense was committed;

179                   (f) Has not been disciplined by a licensing or  
180 credentialing entity in another jurisdiction and is not the  
181 subject of an unresolved complaint, review procedure, or  
182 disciplinary proceeding conducted by a licensing or credentialing  
183 entity in another jurisdiction; and



184 (g) Pays any fees required under this act.

185 (3) The State Workforce Investment Board or applicable  
186 occupational licensing board shall expedite the procedure for  
187 issuance of a license or certificate under subsection (2) of this  
188 section for an applicant who is on active duty.

189 (4) A license or certificate issued under subsection (2) of  
190 this section is valid for one hundred eighty (180) days, and may  
191 be extended at the discretion of the State Workforce Investment  
192 Board or applicable occupational licensing board for one (1)  
193 additional one hundred eighty-day period if the holder of the  
194 license or certificate applies for an extension on a form approved  
195 by the State Workforce Investment Board or applicable occupational  
196 licensing board.

197 (5) The State Workforce Investment Board or applicable  
198 occupational licensing board may adopt regulations necessary to  
199 implement this section.

200 **SECTION 4.** Section 37-101-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
201 amended as follows:

202 37-101-13. (1) It shall be the duty of the Board of  
203 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning and the boards  
204 of trustees of the community colleges to begin immediately a  
205 comprehensive study of gaming and related programs, degrees and  
206 courses offered. Following the completion of such study, the  
207 board shall make such adjustments as may be found to be necessary  
208 in the programs of the various institutions, to the end that the





209 broadest possible educational opportunities shall be offered to  
210 the citizens of this state without inefficient and needless  
211 duplication. Subject to the provisions of Section 75-76-34, the  
212 board shall, through such officers of the board and through such  
213 procedures as it shall see fit to establish, exercise continuing  
214 jurisdiction and control over the establishment of new courses of  
215 study, new departments and new functions and activities in each  
216 institution so that the growth and development of the program of  
217 higher education in the state shall proceed in an orderly and  
218 rational manner, inefficient and needless duplication may be  
219 avoided, and new expanded programs will be undertaken only as the  
220 same may become justified, based upon objective criteria to be  
221 established by the board. In carrying out the purposes of this  
222 section, particular attention shall be given to the extension  
223 programs of the various institutions. The boards, in conjunction  
224 with the chancellor and presidents of the institutions, shall take  
225 such steps as may be necessary to improve and coordinate such  
226 programs and shall exercise such direct control over the  
227 establishment, organization, operation and granting of credit for  
228 such programs as may be necessary to accomplish such purposes.

229 (2) The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher  
230 Learning and the Mississippi Community College Board shall require  
231 the chancellor and presidents of state institutions of higher  
232 learning and public community and junior colleges to implement a  
233 policy and procedure for the acceptance of academic credit toward



a degree or technical program offered by the postsecondary educational institution if an applicant provides satisfactory evidence of successful completion of relevant military education, training or service as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, the United States Reserves, the National Guard of any state, the Military Reserves of any state or the Naval Militia of any state.

(3) Each postsecondary educational institution must be maintained and operated, so that:

(a) The quality and content of each course or program of instruction, training or study are such as may reasonably and adequately achieve the stated objective for which the course or program is offered;

(b) The postsecondary educational institution has or has access to adequate space, equipment, instructional materials, and personnel where applicable to achieve the stated objective of the course or program of study and to provide education of good quality;

(c) The education or experience qualifications of directors, administrators, supervisors and instructors are such as may reasonably ensure that the students will receive education consistent with the objectives of the course or program of study;



257           (d) The postsecondary educational institution provides  
258 a catalog or brochure containing information to prospective  
259 students before enrollment, describing:

260                   (i) The programs offered;  
261                   (ii) The program objectives;  
262                   (iii) The length of the program;  
263                   (iv) The schedule of tuition, fees and all other  
264 charges and expenses necessary for completion of the course of  
265 study;

266                   (v) The cancellation and refund policies; and  
267                   (vi) Other material facts concerning the  
268 institution and the program or course of instruction that are  
269 reasonably likely to affect the decision of the student to enroll,  
270 together with any other disclosures specified by the commission by  
271 regulation;

272           (e) Upon satisfactory completion of training, the  
273 student is given appropriate educational credentials by the  
274 postsecondary educational institution, indicating that the course  
275 of instruction or study has been satisfactorily completed by the  
276 student;

277           (f) Adequate records are maintained by the institution  
278 to show attendance, progress or grades, and that satisfactory  
279 standards are enforced relating to attendance, progress, and  
280 performance;



281 (g) The postsecondary educational institution is  
282 maintained and operated in compliance with all pertinent  
283 ordinances and laws relating to the safety and health of persons  
284 on the premises of the postsecondary educational institution;

285 (h) The institution is financially sound and capable of  
286 fulfilling its commitments to students;

287 (i) Neither the postsecondary educational institution  
288 nor its agents engage in advertising, sales, collection, credit or  
289 other practices which are false, deceptive, misleading or unfair;

290 (j) The student housing owned, maintained or approved  
291 by the postsecondary educational institution is appropriate, safe  
292 and adequate;

293 (k) The postsecondary educational institution has a  
294 fair and equitable cancellation and refund policy;

295 (l) The charges set by the postsecondary educational  
296 institution for tuition, fees, books and supplies are fair and  
297 equitable; and

298 (m) The postsecondary educational institution accepts  
299 military education, training, or service credit or hours toward a  
300 degree or technical program offered by the institution if:

301 (i) The postsecondary educational institution  
302 otherwise accepts transfer credits or hours; and

303 (ii) The credit or hours transfer process meets  
304 the requirements of the accrediting body of the postsecondary  
305 educational institution or its applicable governing entity.



306       **SECTION 5.** Section 37-153-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
307 amended as follows:

308       37-153-7. (1) There is created the Mississippi State  
309 Workforce Investment Board. The Mississippi State Workforce  
310 Investment Board shall be composed of forty-one (41) voting  
311 members, of which a majority shall be representatives of business  
312 and industry in accordance with the federal Workforce Investment  
313 Act.

314               (a) The Governor shall appoint the following members of  
315 the board to serve a term of four (4) years:

316                       (i) The Executive Director of the Mississippi  
317 Association of Supervisors, or his/her designee;

318                       (ii) The Executive Director of the Mississippi  
319 Municipal League;

320                       (iii) One (1) elected mayor;

321                       (iv) One (1) representative of an apprenticeship  
322 program in the state;

323                       (v) One (1) representative of labor organizations,  
324 who has been nominated by state labor federations;

325                       (vi) One (1) representative of individuals and  
326 organizations that has experience with respect to youth  
327 activities;

328                       (vii) One (1) representative of the Mississippi  
329 Association of Planning and Development Districts;



330 (viii) One (1) representative from each of the  
331 four (4) workforce areas in the state, who has been nominated by  
332 the community colleges in each respective area, with the consent  
333 of the elected county supervisors within the respective workforce  
334 area;

335 (ix) The chair of the Mississippi Association of  
336 Community and Junior Colleges; and

337 (x) Twenty-one (21) representatives of business  
338 owners nominated by business and industry organizations, which may  
339 include representatives of the various planning and development  
340 districts in Mississippi.

341 (b) The following state officials shall be members of  
342 the board:

343 (i) The Executive Director of the Mississippi  
344 Department of Employment Security;

345 (ii) The Executive Director of the Department of  
346 Rehabilitation Services;

347 (iii) The State Superintendent of Public  
348 Education;

349 (iv) The Executive Director of the Mississippi  
350 Development Authority;

351 (v) The Executive Director of the Mississippi  
352 Department of Human Services;

353 (vi) The Executive Director of the Mississippi  
354 Community College Board; and



(vii) The Commissioner of the Institutions of Higher Learning.

(c) The Governor, or his designee, shall serve as a member.

(d) Four (4) legislators, who shall serve in a nonvoting capacity, two (2) of whom shall be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor from the membership of the Mississippi Senate, and two (2) of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House from the membership of the Mississippi House of Representatives.

(e) The membership of the board shall reflect the diversity of the State of Mississippi.

(f) The Governor shall designate the Chairman of the Mississippi State Workforce Investment Board from among the voting members of the board, and a quorum of the board shall consist of a majority of the voting members of the board.

(g) The voting members of the board who are not state employees shall be entitled to reimbursement of their reasonable expenses incurred in carrying out their duties under this chapter, from any funds available for that purpose.

(2) The Mississippi Department of Employment Security shall establish limits on administrative costs for each portion of Mississippi's workforce development system consistent with the federal Workforce Investment Act or any future federal workforce legislation.



(3) The Mississippi State Workforce Investment Board shall have the following duties:

(a) Develop and submit to the Governor a strategic plan for an integrated state workforce development system that aligns resources and structures the system to more effectively and efficiently meet the demands of Mississippi's employers and job seekers. This plan will comply with the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as amended, the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 and amendments and successor legislation to these acts;

(b) Assist the Governor in the development and continuous improvement of the statewide workforce investment system that shall include:

(i) Development of linkages in order to assure coordination and nonduplication among programs and activities; and

(ii) Review local workforce development plans that reflect the use of funds from the federal Workforce Investment Act, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the Wagner-Peyser Act and the amendment or successor legislation to the acts, and the Mississippi Comprehensive Workforce Training and Education Consolidation Act;

(c) Recommend the designation of local workforce investment areas as required in Section 116 of the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014. There shall be four (4) workforce





investment areas that are generally aligned with the planning and development district structure in Mississippi. Planning and development districts will serve as the fiscal agents to manage Workforce Investment Act funds, oversee and support the local workforce investment boards aligned with the area and the local programs and activities as delivered by the one-stop employment and training system. The planning and development districts will perform this function through the provisions of the county cooperative service districts created under Sections 19-3-101 through 19-3-115; however, planning and development districts currently performing this function under the Interlocal Cooperation Act of 1974, Sections 17-13-1 through 17-13-17, may continue to do so;

(d) Assist the Governor in the development of an allocation formula for the distribution of funds for adult employment and training activities and youth activities to local workforce investment areas;

(e) Recommend comprehensive, results-oriented measures that shall be applied to all of Mississippi's workforce development system programs;

(f) Assist the Governor in the establishment and management of a one-stop employment and training system conforming to the requirements of the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, as amended, recommending policy for implementing the Governor's



429 approved plan for employment and training activities and services  
430 within the state. In developing this one-stop career operating  
431 system, the Mississippi State Workforce Investment Board, in  
432 conjunction with local workforce investment boards, shall:

433 (i) Design broad guidelines for the delivery of  
434 workforce development programs;

435 (ii) Identify all existing delivery agencies and  
436 other resources;

437 (iii) Define appropriate roles of the various  
438 agencies to include an analysis of service providers' strengths  
439 and weaknesses;

440 (iv) Determine the best way to utilize the various  
441 agencies to deliver services to recipients; and

442 (v) Develop a financial plan to support the  
443 delivery system that shall, at a minimum, include an  
444 accountability system;

445 (g) Assist the Governor in reducing duplication of  
446 services by urging the local workforce investment boards to  
447 designate the local community/junior college as the operator of  
448 the WIN Job Center. Incentive grants of Two Hundred Thousand  
449 Dollars (\$200,000.00) from federal Workforce Investment Act funds  
450 may be awarded to the local workforce boards where the  
451 community/junior college district is designated as the WIN Job  
452 Center. These grants must be provided to the community and junior  
453 colleges for the extraordinary costs of coordinating with the



Workforce Investment Act, advanced technology centers and advanced skills centers. In no case shall these funds be used to supplant state resources being used for operation of workforce development programs;

(h) To provide authority, in accordance with any executive order of the Governor, for developing the necessary collaboration among state agencies at the highest level for accomplishing the purposes of this chapter;

(i) To monitor the effectiveness of the workforce development centers and WIN job centers;

(j) To advise the Governor, public schools, community/junior colleges and institutions of higher learning on effective school-to-work transition policies and programs that link students moving from high school to higher education and students moving between community colleges and four-year institutions in pursuit of academic and technical skills training;

(k) To work with industry to identify barriers that inhibit the delivery of quality workforce education and the responsiveness of educational institutions to the needs of industry;

(l) To provide periodic assessments on effectiveness and results of the overall Mississippi comprehensive workforce development system and district councils; and

(m) To assist the Governor in carrying out any other responsibility required by the federal Workforce Investment Act of



1998, as amended and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act,  
successor legislation and amendments.

(4) The Mississippi State Workforce Investment Board shall  
coordinate all training programs and funds in the State of  
Mississippi.

Each state agency director responsible for workforce training  
activities shall advise the Mississippi State Workforce Investment  
Board of appropriate federal and state requirements. Each such  
state agency director shall remain responsible for the actions of  
his agency; however, each state agency and director shall work  
cooperatively, and shall be individually and collectively  
responsible to the Governor for the successful implementation of  
the statewide workforce investment system. The Governor, as the  
Chief Executive Officer of the state, shall have complete  
authority to enforce cooperation among all entities within the  
state that utilize federal or state funding for the conduct of  
workforce development activities.

(5) The State Workforce Investment Board shall establish a  
Rules Committee. The Rules Committee, in consultation with the  
full board, shall be designated as the body with the sole  
authority to promulgate rules and regulations for distribution of  
Mississippi Works Funds created in Section 71-5-353. The State  
Workforce Investment Board Rules Committee shall develop and  
submit rules and regulations in accordance with the Mississippi  
Administrative Procedures Act, within sixty (60) days of March 21,



2016. The State Workforce Investment Board Rules Committee shall consist of the following State Workforce Investment Board members:

(a) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Development Authority;

(b) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Employment Security;

(c) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Community College Board;

(d) The Chair of the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges;

(e) The Chair of the State Workforce Investment Board;

(f) A representative from the workforce areas selected by the Mississippi Association of Workforce Areas, Inc.;

(g) A business representative currently serving on the board, selected by the Chairman of the State Workforce Investment Board; and

(h) Two (2) legislators, who shall serve in a nonvoting capacity, one (1) of whom shall be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor from the membership of the Mississippi Senate and one (1) of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives from the membership of the Mississippi House of Representatives.

(6) The Mississippi State Workforce Investment Board shall create and implement performance metrics for the Mississippi Works Fund to determine the added value to the local and state economy



and the contribution to the future growth of the state economy. A report on the performance of the fund shall be made to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House of Representatives annually, throughout the life of the fund.

(7) The Mississippi State Workforce Investment Board, in conjunction with the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning and the Mississippi Community College Board shall facilitate the development and implementation of a statewide policy and procedure that provides for the acceptance of credit or hours toward a degree or technical program offered by a vocational or technical training center in the state for an applicant who provides satisfactory evidence of successful completion of relevant military education, training or service as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, the United States Reserves, the National Guard of any state, the Military Reserves of any state, or the Naval Militia of any state.

**SECTION 6.** Section 73-50-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is brought forward as follows:

73-50-1. (1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) "License" means any license (other than a privilege license), certificate or other evidence of qualification that an individual is required to obtain before he or she may engage in or represent himself or herself to be a member of a particular profession or occupation.



553           (b) "Occupational licensing board" means any state  
554 board, commission, department or other agency in Mississippi that  
555 is established for the primary purpose of regulating the entry of  
556 persons into, and/or the conduct of persons within, a particular  
557 profession or occupation, and which is authorized to issue  
558 licenses. For the purposes of this section, the State Department  
559 of Education shall be considered an occupational licensing board  
560 when issuing teacher licenses under Section 37-3-2.

561           (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an  
562 occupational licensing board shall issue a license, certification  
563 or registration to a military-trained applicant to allow the  
564 applicant to lawfully practice the applicant's occupation in  
565 Mississippi if, upon application to an occupational licensing  
566 board, the applicant satisfies the following conditions:

567           (a) Has been awarded a military occupational specialty  
568 and has done all of the following at a level that is substantially  
569 equivalent to or exceeds the requirements for licensure,  
570 certification or registration of the occupational licensing board  
571 from which the applicant is seeking licensure, certification or  
572 registration in this state: completed a military program of  
573 training, completed testing or equivalent training and experience  
574 as determined by the board, and performed in the occupational  
575 specialty.

576           (b) Has engaged in the active practice of the  
577 occupation for which the person is seeking a license,



578 certification or permit from the occupational licensing board in  
579 this state for at least two (2) of the five (5) years preceding  
580 the date of the application under this section.

581 (c) Has not committed any act in any jurisdiction that  
582 would have constituted grounds for refusal, suspension or  
583 revocation of a license to practice that occupation in this state  
584 at the time the act was committed.

585 (d) Pays any fees required by the occupational  
586 licensing board for which the applicant is seeking licensure,  
587 certification or registration in this state.

588 (3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an  
589 occupational licensing board shall issue a license, certification  
590 or registration to a military spouse to allow the military spouse  
591 to lawfully practice the military spouse's occupation in  
592 Mississippi if, upon application to an occupational licensing  
593 board, the military spouse satisfies the following conditions:

594 (a) Holds a current license, certification or  
595 registration from another jurisdiction, and that jurisdiction's  
596 requirements for licensure, certification or registration are  
597 substantially equivalent to or exceed the requirements for  
598 licensure, certification or registration of the occupational  
599 licensing board for which the applicant is seeking licensure,  
600 certification or registration in this state.

601 (b) Can demonstrate competency in the occupation  
602 through methods as determined by the board, such as having





completed continuing education units or having had recent experience for at least two (2) of the five (5) years preceding the date of the application under this section.

(c) Has not committed any act in any jurisdiction that would have constituted grounds for refusal, suspension or revocation of a license to practice that occupation in this state at the time the act was committed.

(d) Is in good standing and has not been disciplined by the agency that had jurisdiction to issue the license, certification or permit.

(e) Pays any fees required by the occupational licensing board for which the applicant is seeking licensure, certification or registration in this state.

(4) All relevant experience of a military service member in the discharge of official duties or, for a military spouse, all relevant experience, including full-time and part-time experience, regardless of whether in a paid or volunteer capacity, shall be credited in the calculation of years of practice in an occupation as required under subsection (2) or (3) of this section.

(5) A nonresident licensed, certified or registered under this section shall be entitled to the same rights and subject to the same obligations as required of a resident licensed, certified or registered by an occupational licensing board in this state.

(6) An occupational licensing board may issue a temporary practice permit to a military-trained applicant or military spouse



628 licensed, certified or registered in another jurisdiction while  
629 the military-trained applicant or military spouse is satisfying  
630 the requirements for licensure under subsection (2) or (3) of this  
631 section if that jurisdiction has licensure, certification or  
632 registration standards substantially equivalent to the standards  
633 for licensure, certification or registration of an occupational  
634 licensing board in this state. The military-trained applicant or  
635 military spouse may practice under the temporary permit until a  
636 license, certification or registration is granted or until a  
637 notice to deny a license, certification or registration is issued  
638 in accordance with rules adopted by the occupational licensing  
639 board.

640 (7) An occupational licensing board may adopt rules  
641 necessary to implement this section.

642 (8) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a  
643 military-trained applicant or military spouse from proceeding  
644 under the existing licensure, certification or registration  
645 requirements established by an occupational licensing board in  
646 this state.

647 (9) Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to  
648 the practice of law as regulated under Section 73-3-1 et seq.

649 **SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
650 and after July 1, 2019.

