

By: Senator(s) Tollison, Moran, Jackson
(32nd), Jackson (11th)

To: Education;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2447
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO CODIFY SECTION 37-153-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION GRANTS THROUGH THE STATE
3 BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD (SWIB)
4 TO SCHOOLS FOR EACH STUDENT WHO EARNS A QUALIFYING INDUSTRY
5 CERTIFICATION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section
8 37-153-15, Mississippi Code of 1972:

9 37-153-15. (1) As used in this chapter:

10 (a) The words "industry certification" mean a voluntary
11 process through which students are assessed by an independent,
12 third-party certifying entity using predetermined standards for
13 knowledge, skills and competencies, resulting in the award of a
14 credential that is nationally recognized and must be at least one
15 (1) of the following:

16 (i) Within an industry that addresses a critical
17 local, regional or statewide economic need;



18 (ii) Linked to an occupation that is included in
19 the State Department of Employment Security's occupations in
20 high-demand list; or

21 (iii) Linked to an occupation that is identified
22 as emerging.

23 (b) The words "qualifying industry certification" mean
24 an industry certification that is linked to an occupation with
25 wages of at least seventy percent (70%) of the average annual wage
26 in this state unless the industry certification is stackable to
27 another postsecondary or professional credential which is linked
28 to an occupation which meets the wage criterion.

29 (2) The State Workforce Investment Board shall provide the
30 State Board of Education annually with a list of qualifying
31 industry certifications. If the occupations identified in the
32 list are not substantially the same as those occupations
33 identified in the prior year, the State Board of Education shall
34 provide reasonable notice of the changes to school districts.

35 (3) Beginning in fiscal year 2019-2020 and subject to
36 available funding, the Department of Education shall pay a career
37 and technical education incentive grant to the public school for
38 each student enrolled in the public school who earns a qualifying
39 industry certification. The amount per student for the career and
40 technical education incentive grant shall be Six Hundred Dollars
41 (\$600.00). If the statewide sum of the career and technical
42 education incentive grants awarded pursuant to this section



43 exceeds the amount of available funds appropriated for the grants,
44 the grants per student shall be reduced proportionately to cover
45 all eligible grants under this section.

46 (4) The grants may be used for qualifying industry
47 certification examination fees, professional development for
48 teachers in career and technical education programs under this
49 section, student instructional support for programs that lead to
50 qualifying industry certifications, or to increase access to
51 qualifying industry certifications. Any grants awarded under this
52 section may not be used to supplant funds provided for the basic
53 operation of the career and technical education programs.

54 (5) On or before July 1 of each year, the Department of
55 Education shall submit a report to the Governor, the Lieutenant
56 Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
57 Chairmen of the House and Senate Education Committees, the
58 Chairman of the House Workforce Development Committee and the
59 Chairman of the Senate Labor Committee on the following:

60 (a) The number of students who enrolled in a career and
61 technical education course or program that leads to a qualifying
62 industry certification.

63 (b) The number of students who earned a qualifying
64 industry certification by certification.

65 (c) The amount of career and technical education
66 incentive grants awarded by the school.



67 (d) The amount of career and technical education
68 incentive grants awarded per student.

69 (e) Aggregated demographic data on the students who
70 earned a qualifying industry certification, including the
71 qualifying industry certifications earned by rural and urban
72 students.

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

