

By: Senator(s) Hopson

To: Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2928
(As Sent to Governor)

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 ENERGY INDUSTRY
4 LOCATED WITHIN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, WARREN COUNTY AND THE
5 MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR AN ENERGY HIGH SCHOOL
6 ACADEMY; TO PRESCRIBE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ENERGY HIGH SCHOOL
7 ACADEMY PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL TO ADMINISTER THE ACADEMY; TO PROVIDE
8 THAT THE ACADEMY MODEL SHALL PROVIDE QUALIFIED STUDENTS FROM
9 EIGHTH GRADE THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL WITH CAREER EXPLORATION AND
10 POTENTIAL INTERNSHIPS WITHIN THE ENERGY INDUSTRY LOCATED WITHIN
11 THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI; TO PROVIDE CRITERIA FOR THE ENERGY HIGH
12 SCHOOL ACADEMY; TO AUTHORIZE THE USE OF BUILDINGS, TEACHERS AND
13 TRANSPORTATION FUNDING FOR THE OPERATION OF THE ACADEMY TO BE
14 PROVIDED ON A PHASED-IN BASIS; TO ESTABLISH AN ENERGY ACADEMY FUND
15 FOR START-UP AND OPERATIONAL COSTS ADMINISTERED BY THE MISSISSIPPI
16 DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY CONSISTING OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDS; AND
17 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

19 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known as "The Energy Academy
20 Act."

21 **SECTION 2. Intent.** The intent of the Legislature is to
22 provide an opportunity for motivated students to participate in a
23 curriculum that will prepare them for a career of employment in
24 the energy industry in their home state.

25 **SECTION 3. Definitions.** For purposes of this act:



26 (a) "The Board of Trustees" means the Board of Trustees
27 of the Vicksburg-Warren School District.

28 (b) "The Board of Education" means the Claiborne County
29 Board of Education.

30 (c) "Nuclear Facility" means any nuclear generating
31 plant in the State of Mississippi.

32 (d) "Energy Academy" means an energy high school
33 created under this act.

34 (e) "Partnership Council" means the Energy High School
35 Academy Partnership Council.

36 (f) "MDA" means the Mississippi Development Authority.

37 **SECTION 4.** (1) The Board of Trustees of the
38 Vicksburg-Warren School District and the Claiborne County Board of
39 Education are authorized to make application to the Mississippi
40 Development Authority for the approval of entering into a
41 Memorandum of Understanding with a nuclear facility and Warren
42 County and the State of Mississippi for the establishment of a
43 partnership for the operation of an Energy High School Academy.
44 The purpose of the Energy High School Academy shall be to provide
45 qualified students attending school in Warren and/or Claiborne
46 County in the eighth through twelfth grade with career education,
47 potential student internships and continuing education for careers
48 in the energy industry.

49 (2) (a) The Energy High School Academy shall be under the
50 administrative direction of the Energy High School Academy



51 Partnership Council (Partnership Council) consisting of one (1)
52 member from each of the following entities:

53 (i) The Chief Executive Officer of an enterprise
54 engaged in the generation of nuclear energy located in Claiborne
55 County, or his designee, who shall serve for four (4) years;

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

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

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

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

66 (vi) A member of the Claiborne County Board of
67 Education, appointed by the Claiborne County Board of Supervisors,
68 who shall serve two (2) years;

69 (vii) A member of the Claiborne County Chamber of
70 Commerce, appointed by the chairman of the board of directors, who
71 may appoint himself or herself, and who shall serve one (1) year;
72 and

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



76 (b) Members of the Partnership Council shall serve
77 staggered terms, as prescribed in paragraph (a) of this
78 subsection, commencing with the initial appointments made in 2019,
79 and shall thereafter, upon the expiration of the initial term, the
80 succeeding appointees shall serve a term of four (4) years.
81 Members of the council may be reappointed to the council by the
82 original appointing authority without limitation on the number of
83 terms served. In the event of a vacancy on the council, the
84 original appointing authority shall appoint a replacement to
85 complete the unexpired term of the member creating the vacancy.

86 (c) The Partnership Council shall meet on or before
87 August 1, 2019, and organize for business, elect officers and
88 adopt necessary regulations for the operation of the Energy High
89 School Academy. Meetings shall be held upon the call of the
90 chairman.

91 (3) The Energy High School Academy Partnership Council shall
92 promulgate administrative rules and regulations to prescribe the
93 criteria to be used in the establishment of the Energy High School
94 Academy, which shall include student qualifications, application
95 requirements and curriculum components.

96 (4) (a) There is established in the State Treasury a fund
97 to be known as the "Energy High School Academy Fund." The purpose
98 of the fund is to provide necessary financial support to
99 Vicksburg-Warren/Claiborne County School Districts and the
100 Mississippi Development Authority for start-up costs and costs



101 associated with implementing and operating the Energy Academy
102 established under this section. The fund may consist of monies
103 obtained from grants from any public or private source. The
104 Mississippi Development Authority shall administer the fund
105 pursuant to appropriation by the Legislature, and may apply for
106 any grants from the federal government or private sources.

107 (b) The Mississippi Development Authority shall prepare
108 a three-year budget proposal for the operation of the Energy
109 Academy which shall include staff and liaison salary estimates,
110 equipment and facility costs and job demand estimates. This
111 budget shall be submitted to the Governor, the Legislative Budget
112 Office and the Partnership Council and updated annually.

113 **SECTION 5.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
114 and after July 1, 2019, and shall stand repealed from and after
115 July 1, 2022.

