MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION 2020

By: Representative Bell (21st)

TO:
Workforce Development

HOUSE BILL NO. 336
(As Passed the House)

AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STUDY COMMITTEE; TO PROVIDE THAT THE MISSISSIPPI WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STUDY COMMITTEE SHALL REVIEW THE CURRICULUM IN K-12 SCHOOLS THAT IS DESIGNED TO PROMOTE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND PREPARATION AND SHALL DEVELOP AND DESIGN A CURRICULUM THAT MEETS THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI; TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE MISSISSIPPI WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STUDY COMMITTEE; TO REQUIRE THE MISSISSIPPI WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STUDY COMMITTEE TO SUBMIT A REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS TO THE LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 30, 2020; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. (1) There is created the Mississippi Workforce Development Study Committee. The purpose of the study committee is to review the curriculum in K-12 schools that is designed to promote workforce development and preparation and to develop and design a curriculum to recommend to the Legislature that meets the workforce development needs of the State of Mississippi.

(2) The Mississippi Workforce Development Study Committee shall be composed of the following fifteen (15) members:

(a) The State Superintendent of Public Education;
(b) One (1) person from the Mississippi Community College Board;
(c) One (1) person from the Mississippi Manufacturers Association;
(d) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Employment Security, or his or her designee;
(e) One (1) person from the State Workforce Investment Board;
(f) One (1) person appointed by the Chair of the Mississippi Economic Council, who shall be a school superintendent;
(g) One (1) person appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, who shall be a school superintendent;
(h) One (1) person appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall be a school superintendent;
(i) One (1) person appointed by the Governor, who shall be a school superintendent;
(j) The Chair of the House of Representatives Workforce Development Committee;
(k) The Chair of the Senate Labor Committee;
(l) The Chair of the House Education Committee;
(m) The Chair of the Senate Education Committee;
(n) The Commissioner of Higher Education of the State Institutions of Higher Learning, or his or her designee; and
(o) A career and technical education teacher to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(3) Appointments shall be made within thirty (30) days after the sine die adjournment of the 2020 Regular Session. The chair of the study committee shall be the Chair of the House of Representatives Workforce Development Committee. The study committee shall meet and organize fifteen (15) days after all appointments have been made and select a vice chair from its membership. The vice chair shall also serve as secretary and shall be responsible for keeping all records of the study committee. A majority of the members of the study committee shall constitute a quorum. In the selection of its officers and the adoption of rules, resolutions and reports, an affirmative vote of a majority of the study committee shall be required. All members shall be notified in writing of all meetings, such notices to be mailed at least fifteen (15) days before the date on which a meeting is to be held. Members of the study committee shall not be compensated or reimbursed for travel expenses.

(4) The Mississippi Workforce Development Study Committee shall have the following duties:

(a) Review the curriculum currently in place to promote workforce development preparation in K-12 schools;

(b) Determine if the curriculum currently in place to promote workforce development preparation in K-12 schools meets the workforce development needs of the State of Mississippi;
(c) To review reports, studies and materials as it
deems appropriate;

(d) To require testimony from school officials,
community college and university officials, business people and
others involved with workforce development within the state as it
deems appropriate;

(e) To appoint any subcommittees as it finds proper;

(f) To make recommendations based on its findings on
how to develop and design a state workforce development curriculum
that meets the workforce development needs of the State of
Mississippi;

(g) To study financial literacy classes including, but
not limited to, opening a bank account and assessing the quality
of a bank's services, balancing a checkbook, managing debt,
including retail and credit card debt, completing a loan
application, the implications of an inheritance, the basics of
personal insurance policies, consumer rights and responsibilities,
dealing with salesmen and merchants and computing state and
federal income taxes;

(h) To study home economics classes including, but not
limited to, teaching of those skills essential to family and
consumer science, cooking, including food safety, preparation and
preservation and the nutritional benefits of a balanced meal,
child development that provides instruction as to how to correctly
respond to children at each stage, education and community
awareness, home management and design, sewing and textiles,
budgeting and economics and health and hygiene; and

(i) To submit the report from its findings in paragraph
(f) of this subsection (4) to the Legislature and the Governor no
later than November 30, 2020.

(5) In making such recommendations, the Mississippi
Workforce Development Study Committee may seek input from all
school districts within the state, the Mississippi Community
College Board, the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning and
businesses throughout this state as is necessary for proper
review. After submitting the report required in this subsection
(5), the Mississippi Workforce Development Study Committee shall
be dissolved.

(6) Notwithstanding any provisions of the laws of the State
of Mississippi to the contrary, school districts within the state,
the Mississippi Community College Board, the Mississippi
Institutions of Higher Learning and businesses throughout this
state shall be required to cooperate with the Mississippi
Workforce Development Study Committee.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
and after its passage.