

By: Senator(s) DeBar

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2823

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE LICENSING AUTHORITIES TO GRANT OCCUPATIONAL
 2 LICENSES TO APPRENTICESHIP APPLICANTS WHO COMPLETE AN
 3 APPRENTICESHIP, PASS THE REQUISITE LICENSING EXAM AND PAY A
 4 LICENSING FEE; TO DIRECT LICENSING AUTHORITIES TO PROMULGATE RULES
 5 AND REGULATIONS TO GOVERN APPRENTICESHIP APPLICATIONS; TO REQUIRE
 6 THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT POLICIES
 7 GOVERNING THE AWARD OF ELECTIVE CREDIT TO A STUDENT WHO COMPLETES
 8 ALTERNATIVE COURSES, PROGRAMS, OPPORTUNITIES AND APPRENTICESHIPS
 9 PROVIDED BY A SPONSORING ORGANIZATION; TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT TO
 10 ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FROM A PARENT OF THE STUDENT SEEKING ELECTIVE
 11 CREDIT; TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT TO EITHER APPROVE OR DENY THE
 12 APPLICATIONS; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE AN ANNUAL
 13 REPORT TO THE CHAIRMEN OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE EDUCATION
 14 COMMITTEES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

16 **SECTION 1.** As used in this act, unless the context clearly
 17 indicates otherwise:

18 (a) "Alternative course, program or opportunity" means
 19 a sequence of instruction over a period of time that meets
 20 reasonably equivalent requirements or competencies of a subject or
 21 course of study.

22 (b) "Apprenticeship" means:

23 (i) A program that meets the federal guidelines
 24 set out in 29 CFR Part 29, including Industry Programs;



25 (ii) An apprenticeship program that already exists
26 under Mississippi statute or rule; or

27 (iii) An apprenticeship program created by a
28 Mississippi licensing authority that meets the requirements in
29 Section 2 of this act.

30 (c) "Department" means the State Department of
31 Education.

32 (d) "Licensing authority" means an agency, examining
33 board, credentialing board, or other office with the authority to
34 impose occupational fees or licensing requirements on any
35 profession.

36 (e) A "sponsoring organization" includes a nonprofit
37 provider, for-profit provider or other appropriate provider,
38 subject to rules and regulations promulgated by the department.

39 **SECTION 2.** (1) Beginning on July 1, 2020, a licensing
40 authority must grant a license to any applicant who:

41 (a) Has completed an apprenticeship in the licensed
42 occupation or profession;

43 (b) Has passed an examination, if one is required by
44 the licensing authority; and

45 (c) Has paid any fees required by the licensing
46 authority.

47 (2) Licensing authorities shall promulgate rules and
48 regulations to govern an apprenticeship application, including



49 establishing a passing score for the examination of an
50 apprenticeship applicant and an apprenticeship licensing fee.

51 (3) (a) The passing score for the examination of an
52 apprenticeship applicant shall not exceed the passing score that
53 is required of a standard licensing applicant. If the relevant
54 licensing authority does not require an examination for the
55 standard licensing process for an occupation, the licensing
56 authority shall not require an examination for apprenticeship
57 applicants.

58 (b) An apprenticeship licensing fee shall not exceed
59 the licensing fee that is required under the traditional licensing
60 process. If the relevant licensing authority does not require a
61 fee for the standard licensing process, the licensing authority
62 shall not require a fee for apprenticeship applicants.

63 (c) Except as otherwise required by federal law, an
64 apprenticeship applicant shall not be required to exceed the
65 number of hours traditionally required by the relevant licensing
66 authority for license applications.

67 **SECTION 3.** (1) The department shall adopt policies
68 governing the award of elective credit leading to graduation for
69 any student in Grade 7 through Grade 12 who completes an
70 alternative course, program, opportunity or apprenticeship
71 provided by a sponsoring organization.

72 (2) No later than September 1, 2020, the department shall
73 accept applications from the parents of students in Grade 7



74 through Grade 12 for alternative courses, programs, opportunities
75 and apprenticeships as defined by Section 2 of this act.

76 (3) Upon receipt of an application by certified U.S. mail,
77 email or hand delivery, the department shall have forty-five (45)
78 days to approve or reject the application for elective credit. If
79 the application is rejected, the notice of rejection shall include
80 the specific reasons why the application was rejected, including
81 stated benchmarks that must be met for a future application for
82 elective credit to be approved. Any application not approved or
83 rejected within forty-five (45) days of the receipt of the
84 application shall be automatically approved and the department
85 shall grant the student elective credit towards graduation.

86 **SECTION 4.** The department shall detail the progress that has
87 been made in each school district in providing alternative
88 courses, programs, opportunities and apprenticeships in an annual
89 report delivered to the Chairmen of the Senate and House Education
90 Committees on or before December 1. Upon request, the department
91 shall provide the report to any other member of the Legislature.

92 **SECTION 5.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
93 and after July 1, 2020.

