

By: Representative Roberson

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 685

1 AN ACT TO REENACT SECTIONS 37-69-1 THROUGH 37-69-7,
 2 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH ARE THE ENERGY ACADEMY ACT THAT
 3 AUTHORIZES THE VICKSBURG-WARREN AND CLAIBORNE COUNTY SCHOOL
 4 DISTRICTS TO PARTNER WITH A NUCLEAR FACILITY, WARREN COUNTY AND
 5 THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENERGY HIGH
 6 SCHOOL ACADEMY; TO AMEND REENACTED SECTIONS 37-69-5 AND 37-69-7,
 7 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO MAKE MINOR, NONSUBSTANTIVE WORDING
 8 CHANGES; TO CREATE NEW SECTION 37-69-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
 9 TO CODIFY AND EXTEND THE DATE OF THE REPEALER ON THE ENERGY
 10 ACADEMY ACT; TO AMEND SECTION 5, CHAPTER 482, LAWS OF 2019, TO
 11 DELETE THE REPEALER ON THE ENERGY ACADEMY ACT FROM THE EFFECTIVE
 12 DATE SECTION OF THE ENABLING LEGISLATION; AND FOR RELATED
 13 PURPOSES.

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

15 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-69-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
 16 reenacted as follows:

17 37-69-1. This chapter shall be known as "The Energy Academy
 18 Act."

19 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-69-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
 20 reenacted as follows:

21 37-69-3. **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.** Section 37-69-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
26 reenacted and amended as follows:

27 37-69-5. **Definitions.** For purposes of this chapter:

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

30 (b) "The Board of Education" means the Claiborne County
31 Board of Education.

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

34 (d) "Energy Academy" means an energy high school
35 created under this chapter.

36 (e) "Partnership Council" means the Energy High School
37 Academy Partnership Council.

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

39 **SECTION 4.** Section 37-69-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
40 reenacted and amended as follows:

41 37-69-7. (1) The Board of Trustees of the Vicksburg-Warren
42 School District and the Claiborne County Board of Education are
43 authorized to make application to the Mississippi Development
44 Authority for the approval of entering into a Memorandum of
45 Understanding with a nuclear facility and Warren County and the
46 State of Mississippi for the establishment of a partnership for
47 the operation of an Energy High School Academy. The purpose of



48 the Energy High School Academy shall be to provide qualified
49 students attending school in Warren and/or Claiborne County in the
50 eighth through twelfth grade with career education, potential
51 student internships and continuing education for careers in the
52 energy industry.

53 (2) (a) The Energy High School Academy shall be under the
54 administrative direction of the Energy High School Academy
55 Partnership Council (Partnership Council) consisting of one (1)
56 member from each of the following entities:

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

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

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

64 (iv) A designee of the Mississippi Development
65 Authority, appointed by the executive director of MDA, and * * *
66 who may be the executive director, who shall serve three (3)
67 years;

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



71 (vi) A member of the Claiborne County Board of
72 Education, appointed by the Claiborne County Board of Supervisors,
73 who shall serve two (2) years;

74 (vii) A member of the Claiborne County Chamber of
75 Commerce, appointed by the chairman of the board of directors, who
76 may appoint himself or herself, and who shall serve one (1) year;
77 and

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

81 (b) Members of the Partnership Council shall serve
82 staggered terms, as prescribed in paragraph (a) of this
83 subsection, commencing with the initial appointments made in 2019,
84 and shall thereafter, upon the expiration of the initial term, the
85 succeeding appointees shall serve a term of four (4) years.

86 Members of the council may be reappointed to the council by the
87 original appointing authority without limitation on the number of
88 terms served. In the event of a vacancy on the council, the
89 original appointing authority shall appoint a replacement to
90 complete the unexpired term of the member creating the vacancy.

91 (c) The Partnership Council shall meet on or before
92 August 1, 2019, and organize for business, elect officers and
93 adopt necessary regulations for the operation of the Energy High
94 School Academy. Meetings shall be held upon the call of the
95 chairman.



96 (3) The Energy High School Academy Partnership Council shall
97 promulgate administrative rules and regulations to prescribe the
98 criteria to be used in the establishment of the Energy High School
99 Academy, which shall include student qualifications, application
100 requirements and curriculum components.

101 (4) (a) There is established in the State Treasury a fund
102 to be known as the "Energy High School Academy Fund." The purpose
103 of the fund is to provide necessary financial support to
104 Vicksburg-Warren/Claiborne County School Districts and the
105 Mississippi Development Authority for start-up costs and costs
106 associated with implementing and operating the Energy Academy
107 established under this section. The fund may consist of monies
108 obtained from grants from any public or private source. The
109 Mississippi Development Authority shall administer the fund
110 pursuant to appropriation by the Legislature, and may apply for
111 any grants from the federal government or private sources.

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

118 **SECTION 5.** The following shall be codified as Section
119 37-69-9, Mississippi Code of 1972:



120 37-69-9. Sections 37-69-1 through 37-69-9 shall stand
121 repealed on July 1, 2025.

122 **SECTION 6.** Section 5, Chapter 482, Laws of 2019, is amended
123 as follows:

124 Section 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from
125 and after July 1, 2019 * * *.

126 **SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
127 and after July 1, 2022.

