

By: Senator(s) Parker, Polk, Butler (36th),  
Frazier, Michel, Parks, Williams

To: Economic and Workforce  
Development; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2821

1 AN ACT ENTITLED THE "MISSISSIPPI NURSE/HEALTH SCIENCE  
2 TRAINING AND RETENTION ACT"; TO ESTABLISH IN THE OFFICE OF  
3 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT  
4 SECURITY THE "MISSISSIPPI NURSING PRECEPTOR GRANT PROGRAM"; TO  
5 PRESCRIBE COMPONENTS OF THE GRANT PROGRAM AND TO DIRECT THE OFFICE  
6 OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TO PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS  
7 NECESSARY TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE FOR MULTIPLE  
8 ROUNDS OF GRANT AWARDS; TO CREATE IN THE STATE TREASURY A SPECIAL  
9 FUND KNOWN AS THE "MISSISSIPPI NURSING PRECEPTOR GRANT PROGRAM  
10 FUND"; TO ESTABLISH IN THE OFFICE OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT OF THE  
11 MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY THE "MISSISSIPPI  
12 HEALTH SCIENCE TRAINING INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM"; TO  
13 PRESCRIBE COMPONENTS OF THE GRANT PROGRAM AND DIRECT THE OFFICE OF  
14 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TO PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS  
15 NECESSARY TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE FOR MULTIPLE  
16 ROUNDS OF GRANT AWARDS; TO CREATE IN THE STATE TREASURY A SPECIAL  
17 FUND KNOWN AS THE "MISSISSIPPI HEALTH SCIENCE TRAINING  
18 INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM FUND"; TO AMEND SECTION 37-153-7,  
19 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

21 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known as the "Mississippi  
22 Nurse/Health Science Training and Retention Act."

23 **SECTION 2.** (1) There is created at the Office of Workforce  
24 Development of the Mississippi Department of Employment Security,  
25 the Mississippi Nursing Preceptor Grant Program.



26           (2) The purpose of this program is to provide Mississippi  
27 licensed hospitals and Mississippi licensed long-term care  
28 facilities with grants to pay nursing preceptors up to an  
29 additional Two Dollars (\$2.00) per hour in premium pay for the  
30 time spent training Associates Degree of Nursing (ADN) students  
31 enrolled at any two-year nursing program operated by the  
32 Mississippi Community College Board. This act shall be subject to  
33 the availability of funds appropriated by the Legislature  
34 utilizing Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds made available  
35 under the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) or any  
36 other funds appropriated by the Legislature.

37           (3) Definitions. For purposes of this section, unless the  
38 context requires otherwise, the following terms shall have the  
39 meanings ascribed:

40                   (a) "ARPA" shall mean the federal American Rescue Plan  
41 Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, which amends Title VI of the Social  
42 Security Act.

43                   (b) "State Recovery Funds" shall mean Coronavirus State  
44 Fiscal Recovery Funds awarded through Section 602, Title VI of the  
45 Social Security Act amended by Section 9901 of the federal  
46 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2.

47                   (c) "Office" shall mean the Office of Workforce  
48 Development of the Mississippi Department of Employment Security.



49 (d) "Student" shall mean an Associates Degree of  
50 Nursing (ADN) student enrolled at any two-year nursing program  
51 operated by the Mississippi Community College Board.

52 (e) "Preceptor" shall mean a nurse who supervises a  
53 nursing student during clinical practice and facilitates the  
54 application of theory to practice for the nursing student. A  
55 preceptor works with the student to assist the student in  
56 acquiring new competencies required for safe, ethical and quality  
57 practice. They assist the student by setting expectations,  
58 providing effective feedback about their performance, and  
59 providing appropriate opportunities to meet the student and course  
60 objectives.

61 (f) "Hospital" shall mean any Mississippi licensed  
62 hospital and Mississippi licensed long-term care facility that  
63 provides a nursing preceptor program to nursing students enrolled  
64 at any two-year nursing program operated by the Mississippi  
65 Community College Board.

66 (4) On or before July 1, 2022, the office shall promulgate  
67 interim rules and regulations necessary to administer the Nursing  
68 Preceptor Grant Program prescribed under this act, including  
69 application procedures and deadlines. The office shall provide  
70 the interim rules and regulations to the Mississippi Community  
71 College Board, the Mississippi Hospital Association, and the  
72 Mississippi Health Care Association to allow for a fifteen-day  
73 comment period before finalizing the rules and regulations. In



74 addition, the office shall determine the duration of the grant  
75 awards and the issuance of additional rounds of grants.

76 (5) For the first round of the grant awards, or for future  
77 rounds of grant awards for hospitals who did not receive a grant  
78 award, the office shall receive applications from any hospital,  
79 which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

80 (a) The number of preceptors the hospital intends to  
81 provide the premium payment;

82 (b) The estimated hours the preceptors will train  
83 students;

84 (c) The number of students trained at their hospital;

85 (d) A certification that the premium payments will only  
86 be applied to the time spent with students and meets the  
87 guidelines of ARPA; and its implementing guidelines, guidance,  
88 rules, regulations and/or other criteria, as may be amended or  
89 supplemented from time to time, by the United States Department of  
90 the Treasury; and all applicable guidance issued by the  
91 department; and

92 (e) Any additional requirements as set by the office.

93 (6) For any future rounds of grant awards, the office shall  
94 receive applications from any hospital, which shall include, but  
95 not be limited to, the following:

96 (a) The number of preceptors the hospital intends to  
97 provide the premium payment;



98 (b) The retention rate of preceptors who received  
99 premium payment at the hospital;

100 (c) The estimated hours the preceptors will train  
101 students;

102 (d) The actual number of hours preceptors trained  
103 students;

104 (e) The number of students trained at their hospital;

105 (f) A certification that the premium payments will only  
106 be applied to the time spent with students and meets the  
107 guidelines of ARPA; and its implementing guidelines, guidance,  
108 rules, regulations and/or other criteria, as may be amended or  
109 supplemented from time to time, by the United States Department of  
110 the Treasury; and all applicable guidance issued by the  
111 department; and

112 (g) Any additional requirements as set by the office.

113 (7) Applications shall be reviewed and scored by the office.  
114 The office shall certify that each application submitted is an  
115 allowable expense as defined in ARPA and all applicable guidance  
116 issued by the department. The office shall award grants to  
117 hospitals based on what the office determines is the most  
118 significant impact on retaining and recruiting additional nursing  
119 preceptors in order to train the increasing number of students.  
120 Grant agreements shall be executed between the hospital and the  
121 office. All final awards will be determined at the discretion of  
122 the executive director of the office. Funds shall be made



123 available to a hospital upon the execution of a grant agreement  
124 between the office and the approved hospital. All grant awards  
125 received by the hospital shall be paid to preceptors as premium  
126 payment for the hours working with students.

127 (8) The hospital may be required to repay the office for any  
128 premium payment not consistent with the guidelines of ARPA; and  
129 its implementing guidelines, guidance, rules, regulations and/or  
130 other criteria, as may be amended or supplemented from time to  
131 time, by the United States Department of the Treasury; and all  
132 applicable guidance issued by the office. Any repayment of funds  
133 under this act shall be transferred or deposited into the  
134 Mississippi Nursing Preceptor Grant Program Fund.

135 (9) For purposes of the Public Employees' Retirement System  
136 of Mississippi, the premium pay provided under this section shall  
137 not be considered earned compensation, as defined in Section  
138 25-11-103(k).

139 (10) The office shall submit to the Joint Legislative Budget  
140 Committee by October 1 of each year an annual report. The reports  
141 shall contain, at a minimum, the hospitals that submitted  
142 applications, the score of the applications, the amount of grant  
143 funds awarded to each hospital, the amount of grant funds expended  
144 by each hospital, the number of preceptors paid, the retention of  
145 these preceptors by the hospitals, the number of nursing students  
146 trained.



147 (11) There is hereby created in the State Treasury a special  
148 fund to be known as the "Mississippi Nursing Preceptor Grant  
149 Program Fund" which shall consist of funds appropriated by the  
150 Legislature from State Recovery Funds or other funds as determined  
151 by the Legislature. Unexpended amounts remaining of any monies in  
152 the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall not lapse into the  
153 Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund or the State General Fund,  
154 and any interest earned on amounts in the fund shall remain in the  
155 fund. The expenditure of monies in the Mississippi Nursing  
156 Preceptor Grant Program Fund shall be under the direction of the  
157 Office of Workforce Development for the purposes prescribed to  
158 them in this section.

159 **SECTION 3.** (1) There is created at the Office of Workforce  
160 Development of the Mississippi Department of Employment Security,  
161 the Mississippi Health Science Training Infrastructure Grant  
162 Program.

163 (2) The purpose of this program is to provide a reimbursable  
164 grant for health science training infrastructure at any  
165 Mississippi Community College, Institution of Higher Learning, or  
166 any member of the Mississippi Association of Independent Colleges  
167 and Universities. This act shall be subject to the availability  
168 of funds appropriated by the Legislature utilizing Coronavirus  
169 State Fiscal Recovery Funds made available under the federal  
170 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) or any other funds  
171 appropriated by the Legislature.



172 (3) **Definitions.** For purposes of this act, unless the  
173 context requires otherwise, the following terms shall have the  
174 meanings ascribed:

175 (a) "Applicant" shall mean any Mississippi Community  
176 College, Institution of Higher Learning, or any member of the  
177 Mississippi Association of Independent Colleges and Universities  
178 that has a nursing school.

179 (b) "Health science training infrastructure" shall mean  
180 any infrastructure that is eligible under ARPA that assists with  
181 the training of all of the following students: nurses, doctors,  
182 paramedics, pharmacists and public health students.

183 (c) "ARPA" shall mean the federal American Rescue Plan  
184 Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, which amends Title VI of the Social  
185 Security Act.

186 (d) "State Recovery Funds" shall mean Coronavirus State  
187 Fiscal Recovery Funds awarded through Section 602, Title VI of the  
188 Social Security Act amended by Section 9901 of the federal  
189 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2.

190 (e) "Office" shall mean the Office of Workforce  
191 Development of the Mississippi Department of Employment Security.

192 (4) On or before July 1, 2022, the office shall promulgate  
193 rules and regulations necessary to administer Mississippi Health  
194 Science Training Infrastructure Grant Program prescribed under  
195 this act, including application procedures and deadlines. The  
196 Department of Finance and Administration Bureau of Building,





197 Grounds, and Real Property Management is authorized and directed  
198 to advise the office regarding all such rules and regulations.

199 (5) The office shall receive applications submitted by the  
200 applicants, which shall include, but not be limited to, the  
201 following:

202 (a) A detail and cost of the health sciences training  
203 infrastructure requested;

204 (b) The number and type of health science students  
205 currently trained at the applicant's school;

206 (c) The estimated increase in the number of health  
207 science students to be trained at the applicant's school after the  
208 completion of the health science training infrastructure;

209 (d) A certification that the health science training  
210 infrastructure meets the guidelines of ARPA; and its implementing  
211 guidelines, guidance, rules, regulations and/or other criteria, as  
212 may be amended or supplemented from time to time, by the United  
213 States Department of the Treasury; and all applicable guidance  
214 issued by the department; and

215 (e) Any additional requirements as set by the office.

216 (6) Applications shall be reviewed and scored by the office.

217 The office shall certify that each application submitted is an  
218 allowable expense as defined in ARPA and all applicable guidance  
219 issued by the department. The Department of Finance and  
220 Administration Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property  
221 Management is authorized and directed to advise the office as to



222 the estimated cost and eligibility of the health science training  
223 infrastructure projects. The office shall award the grant(s) to  
224 the applicant(s) based on what health science training  
225 infrastructure project the office determines has the most  
226 significant impact on increasing the number of health science  
227 students trained in Mississippi. In reviewing the applications,  
228 the office shall give preference to any applicant proposing to  
229 train Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine (DO). Grant agreement(s)  
230 shall be executed between the applicant(s) and the office. All  
231 final awards will be determined at the discretion of the executive  
232 director of the office. Funds shall be made available to the  
233 applicant(s) upon the execution of a grant agreement between the  
234 office and the approved applicant(s). The office shall provide  
235 these funds to the applicant(s) on a reimbursable basis after  
236 receiving support for expenses and determining that they meet the  
237 grant award criteria.

238 (7) The applicant(s) may be required to repay the State of  
239 Mississippi for any grant funds awarded not consistent with the  
240 guidelines of ARPA; and its implementing guidelines, guidance,  
241 rules, regulations and/or other criteria, as may be amended or  
242 supplemented from time to time, by the United States Department of  
243 the Treasury; and all applicable guidance issued by the office.

244 (8) The office shall submit to the Joint Legislative Budget  
245 Committee by October 1 of each year an annual report. The reports  
246 shall contain, at a minimum, the submitted applications, the score



247 of the applications, the amount of grant funds awarded to each  
248 applicant(s), the amount of grant funds expended by each  
249 applicant(s), the status of the health science training  
250 infrastructure, the number of students currently trained at the  
251 applicant(s) nursing school, the estimated increase in the number  
252 of students to be trained at the applicant(s) nursing school.

253 (9) There is hereby created in the State Treasury a special  
254 fund to be known as the "Mississippi Health Science Training  
255 Infrastructure Grant Program Fund" which shall consist of funds  
256 appropriated by the Legislature from State Recovery Funds or other  
257 funds as determined by the Legislature. Unexpended amounts of any  
258 monies remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall  
259 not lapse into the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund or the  
260 State General Fund, and any interest earned on amounts in the fund  
261 shall remain in the fund. The expenditure of monies in the  
262 Mississippi Health Science Training Infrastructure Grant Program  
263 Fund shall be under the direction of the Office of Workforce  
264 Development of the Mississippi Department of Employment Security  
265 for the purposes prescribed to them in this section.

266 **SECTION 4.** The Office of Workforce Development shall certify  
267 to the Department of Finance and Administration that each  
268 expenditure of the funds appropriated to the office under this act  
269 is in compliance with the guidelines, guidance, rules, regulations  
270 and/or other criteria, as may be amended from time to time, of the  
271 United States Department of the Treasury regarding the use of



272 monies from the State Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund in  
273 Section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law  
274 No. 117-1).

275 **SECTION 5.** (1) (a) All monies disbursed from the  
276 "Mississippi Nursing Preceptor Grant Program Fund" and the  
277 "Mississippi Health Science Training Infrastructure Grant Program  
278 Fund," and shall be in compliance with the guidelines, guidance,  
279 rules, regulations or other criteria, as may be amended from time  
280 to time, of the United States Department of the Treasury regarding  
281 the use of monies from the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund,  
282 established by the American Rescue Plan of 2021.

283 (b) If there are unobligated Coronavirus State Fiscal  
284 Recovery Fund monies remaining in the funds created in this act,  
285 on the later of December 17, 2024, or fourteen (14) days prior to  
286 the fund obligation deadline provided by the federal government,  
287 the Department of Finance and Administration shall transfer these  
288 unobligated balances to the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery  
289 Fund. The Department of Finance and Administration shall then  
290 transfer the unobligated balance of Coronavirus State Fiscal  
291 Recovery Funds from the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund to  
292 the State and School Employees' Life and Health Insurance Fund for  
293 an amount not to exceed the lesser of Sixty Million Dollars  
294 (\$60,000,000.00) or the amount of allowable ARPA expenditures, by  
295 no later than December 31, 2024, or on the date of the fund  
296 obligation deadline provided by the federal government. The



297 Department of Finance and Administration shall then transfer all  
298 remaining unobligated balances of Coronavirus State Fiscal  
299 Recovery Funds from the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund to  
300 the Unemployment Compensation Fund up to the ARPA allowable  
301 amount, by no later than December 31, 2024, or on the date of the  
302 fund obligation deadline provided by the federal government.

303 (2) The use of funds allocated under this program shall be  
304 subject to audit by the United States Department of the Treasury's  
305 Office of Inspector General and the Mississippi Office of the  
306 Auditor. Each person receiving funds under these programs found  
307 to be fully or partially noncompliant with the requirements in  
308 this act shall return to the state all or a portion of the funds  
309 received.

310 **SECTION 6.** Section 37-153-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
311 amended as follows:

312 37-153-7. (1) There is created the Mississippi Office of  
313 Workforce Development and the Mississippi State Workforce  
314 Investment Board, which shall serve as the advisory board for the  
315 office. The Mississippi State Workforce Investment Board shall be  
316 composed of thirty-one (31) voting members, of which a majority  
317 shall be representatives of business and industry in accordance  
318 with the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, or any  
319 successive acts.

320 (2) The members of the State Workforce Investment Board  
321 shall include:



322 (a) The Governor, or his designee;  
323 (b) Nineteen (19) members, appointed by the Governor,  
324 of whom:

325 (i) A majority shall be representatives of  
326 businesses in the state, who:

327 1. Are owners of businesses, chief executives  
328 or operating officers of businesses, or other business executives  
329 or employers with optimum policymaking or hiring authority, and  
330 who, in addition, may be members of a local board described in  
331 Section 3122(b)(2)(A)(i) of the federal Workforce Innovation and  
332 Opportunity Act. At least two (2) of the members appointed under  
333 this item 1. shall be small business owners, chief executives or  
334 operating officers of businesses with less than fifty (50)  
335 employees;

336 2. Represent businesses, including small  
337 businesses, or organizations representing businesses, which  
338 provide employment opportunities that, at a minimum, include  
339 high-quality, work-relevant training and development in  
340 high-demand industry sectors or occupations in the state; and

341 3. Are appointed from among individuals  
342 nominated by state business organizations and business trade  
343 associations;

344 (ii) Not less than twenty percent (20%) shall  
345 consist of representatives of the workforce within the state,  
346 which:



347 1. Includes labor organization  
348 representatives who have been nominated by state labor  
349 federations;

350 2. Includes a labor organization member or  
351 training director from an apprenticeship program in the state,  
352 which shall be a joint labor-management apprenticeship program if  
353 such a program exists in the state;

354 3. May include representatives of  
355 community-based organizations, including organizations serving  
356 veterans or providing or supporting competitive, integrated  
357 employment for individuals with disabilities, who have  
358 demonstrated experience and expertise in addressing employment,  
359 training or education needs of individuals with barriers to  
360 employment; and

361 4. May include representatives of  
362 organizations, including organizations serving out-of-school  
363 youth, who have demonstrated experience or expertise in addressing  
364 the employment, training or education needs of eligible youth;

365 (iii) The balance shall include government  
366 representatives, including the lead state officials with primary  
367 responsibility for core programs, and chief elected officials  
368 (collectively representing both cities and counties, where  
369 appropriate);

370 (c) Two (2) representatives of businesses in the state  
371 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;



372 (d) Two (2) representatives of businesses in the state  
373 appointed by the Governor from a list of three (3) recommendations  
374 from the Speaker of the House; and

375 (e) The following state officials:

376 (i) The Executive Director of the Mississippi  
377 Department of Employment Security;

378 (ii) The Executive Director of the Department of  
379 Rehabilitation Services;

380 (iii) The State Superintendent of Public  
381 Education;

382 (iv) The Executive Director of the Mississippi  
383 Development Authority;

384 (v) The Executive Director of the Mississippi  
385 Community College Board;

386 (vi) The President of the Community College  
387 Association; and

388 (vii) The Commissioner of the Institutions of  
389 Higher Learning.

390 (f) One (1) senator, appointed by the Lieutenant  
391 Governor, and one (1) representative, appointed by the Speaker of  
392 the House, shall serve on the state board in a nonvoting capacity.

393 (g) The Governor may appoint additional members if  
394 required by the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act,  
395 or any successive acts.





396 (h) Members of the board shall serve a term of four (4)  
397 years, and shall not serve more than three (3) consecutive terms.

398 (i) The membership of the board shall reflect the  
399 diversity of the State of Mississippi.

400 (j) The Governor shall designate the Chairman of the  
401 Mississippi State Workforce Investment Board from among the  
402 business and industry voting members of the board, and a quorum of  
403 the board shall consist of a majority of the voting members of the  
404 board.

405 (k) The voting members of the board who are not state  
406 employees shall be entitled to reimbursement of their reasonable  
407 expenses in the manner and amount specified in Section 25-3-41 and  
408 shall be entitled to receive per diem compensation as authorized  
409 in Section 25-3-69.

410 (3) Members of the state board may be recalled by their  
411 appointing authority for cause, including a felony conviction,  
412 fraudulent or dishonest acts or gross abuse of discretion, failure  
413 to meet board member qualifications, or chronic failure to attend  
414 board meetings.

415 (4) The Mississippi Department of Employment Security shall  
416 establish limits on administrative costs for each portion of  
417 Mississippi's workforce development system consistent with the  
418 federal Workforce Investment Act or any future federal workforce  
419 legislation.



420 (5) The Mississippi State Workforce Investment Board shall  
421 have the following duties. These duties are intended to be  
422 consistent with the scope of duties provided in the federal  
423 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, amendments and successor  
424 legislation to this act, and other relevant federal law:

425 (a) Through the office, develop and submit to the  
426 Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House a strategic  
427 plan for an integrated state workforce development system that  
428 aligns resources and structures the system to more effectively and  
429 efficiently meet the demands of Mississippi's employers and job  
430 seekers. This plan will comply with the federal Workforce  
431 Investment Act of 1998, as amended, the federal Workforce  
432 Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 and amendments and  
433 successor legislation to these acts;

434 (b) Assist the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and  
435 Speaker of the House in the development and continuous improvement  
436 of the statewide workforce investment system that shall include:

437 (i) Development of linkages in order to assure  
438 coordination and nonduplication among programs and activities; and

439 (ii) Review local workforce development plans that  
440 reflect the use of funds from the federal Workforce Investment  
441 Act, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the Wagner-Peyser  
442 Act and the amendment or successor legislation to the acts, and  
443 the Mississippi Comprehensive Workforce Training and Education  
444 Consolidation Act;



445           (c) Recommend to the office the designation of local  
446 workforce investment areas as required in Section 116 of the  
447 federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and the Workforce  
448 Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014. There shall be four (4)  
449 workforce investment areas that are generally aligned with the  
450 planning and development district structure in Mississippi.  
451 Planning and development districts will serve as the fiscal agents  
452 to manage Workforce Investment Act funds, oversee and support the  
453 local workforce investment boards aligned with the area and the  
454 local programs and activities as delivered by the one-stop  
455 employment and training system. The planning and development  
456 districts will perform this function through the provisions of the  
457 county cooperative service districts created under Sections  
458 19-3-101 through 19-3-115; however, planning and development  
459 districts currently performing this function under the Interlocal  
460 Cooperation Act of 1974, Sections 17-13-1 through 17-13-17, may  
461 continue to do so;

462           (d) Assist the Governor in the development of an  
463 allocation formula for the distribution of funds for adult  
464 employment and training activities and youth activities to local  
465 workforce investment areas;

466           (e) Recommend comprehensive, results-oriented measures  
467 that shall be applied to all of Mississippi's workforce  
468 development system programs;



469           (f) Assist the Governor in the establishment and  
470 management of a one-stop employment and training system conforming  
471 to the requirements of the federal Workforce Investment Act of  
472 1998 and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, as  
473 amended, recommending policy for implementing the Governor's  
474 approved plan for employment and training activities and services  
475 within the state. In developing this one-stop career operating  
476 system, the Mississippi State Workforce Investment Board, in  
477 conjunction with local workforce investment boards, shall:

478                   (i) Design broad guidelines for the delivery of  
479 workforce development programs;

480                   (ii) Identify all existing delivery agencies and  
481 other resources;

482                   (iii) Define appropriate roles of the various  
483 agencies to include an analysis of service providers' strengths  
484 and weaknesses;

485                   (iv) Determine the best way to utilize the various  
486 agencies to deliver services to recipients; and

487                   (v) Develop a financial plan to support the  
488 delivery system that shall, at a minimum, include an  
489 accountability system;

490           (g) To provide authority, in accordance with any  
491 executive order of the Governor, for developing the necessary  
492 collaboration among state agencies at the highest level for  
493 accomplishing the purposes of this chapter;



494 (h) To monitor the effectiveness of the workforce  
495 development centers and WIN job centers;

496 (i) To advise the Governor, public schools,  
497 community/junior colleges and institutions of higher learning on  
498 effective school-to-work transition policies and programs that  
499 link students moving from high school to higher education and  
500 students moving between community colleges and four-year  
501 institutions in pursuit of academic and technical skills training;

502 (j) To work with industry to identify barriers that  
503 inhibit the delivery of quality workforce education and the  
504 responsiveness of educational institutions to the needs of  
505 industry;

506 (k) To provide periodic assessments on effectiveness  
507 and results of the overall Mississippi comprehensive workforce  
508 development system and district councils;

509 (l) Develop broad statewide development goals,  
510 including a goal to raise the state's labor force participation  
511 rate;

512 (m) Perform a comprehensive review of Mississippi's  
513 workforce development efforts, including the amount spent and  
514 effectiveness of programs supported by state or federal money; and

515 (n) To assist the Governor in carrying out any other  
516 responsibility required by the federal Workforce Investment Act of  
517 1998, as amended and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act,  
518 successor legislation and amendments.



519           (6) The Mississippi State Workforce Investment Board shall  
520 coordinate all training programs and funds within its purview,  
521 consistent with the federal Workforce Investment Act, Workforce  
522 Innovation and Opportunity Act, amendments and successor  
523 legislation to these acts, and other relevant federal law.

524           Each state agency director responsible for workforce training  
525 activities shall advise the Mississippi Office of Workforce  
526 Development and the State Workforce Investment Board of  
527 appropriate federal and state requirements. Each state agency,  
528 department and institution shall report any monies received for  
529 workforce training activities or career and technical education  
530 and a detailed itemization of how those monies were spent to the  
531 state board. The board shall compile the data and provide a  
532 report of the monies and expenditures to the Chairs of the House  
533 and Senate Appropriations Committee, the Chair of the House  
534 Workforce Development Committee and the Chair of the Senate  
535 Economic and Workforce Development Committee by October 1 of each  
536 year. Each such state agency director shall remain responsible  
537 for the actions of his agency; however, each state agency and  
538 director shall work cooperatively to fulfill the state's goals.

539           (7) The State Workforce Investment Board shall establish an  
540 executive committee, which shall consist of the following State  
541 Workforce Investment Board members:

542           (a) The Chair of the State Workforce Investment Board;



543 (b) Two (2) business representatives currently serving  
544 on the state board selected by the Governor;

545 (c) The two (2) business representatives currently  
546 serving on the state board appointed by the Lieutenant Governor;

547 (d) The two (2) business representatives currently  
548 serving on the state board appointed by the Governor from a list  
549 of three (3) recommendations from the Speaker of the House;

550 (e) The two (2) legislators, who shall serve in a  
551 nonvoting capacity, one (1) of whom shall be appointed by the  
552 Lieutenant Governor from the membership of the Mississippi Senate  
553 and one (1) of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House  
554 of Representatives from the membership of the Mississippi House of  
555 Representatives.

556 (8) The executive committee shall select an executive  
557 director of the Office of Workforce Development, with the advice  
558 and consent of a majority of the State Workforce Investment Board.  
559 The executive committee shall seek input from economic development  
560 organizations across the state when selecting the executive  
561 director. The executive director shall:

562 (a) Be a person with extensive experience in  
563 development of economic, human and physical resources, and  
564 promotion of industrial and commercial development. The executive  
565 director shall have a bachelor's degree from a state-accredited  
566 institution and no less than eight (8) years of professional  
567 experience related to workforce or economic development;



568           (b) Perform the functions necessary for the daily  
569 operation and administration of the office, with oversight from  
570 the executive committee and the State Workforce Investment Board,  
571 to fulfill the duties of the state board as described in Chapter  
572 476, Laws of 2020;

573           (c) Hire staff needed for the performance of his or her  
574 duties under Chapter 476, Laws of 2020. The executive director,  
575 with approval from the executive committee, shall set the  
576 compensation of any hired employees from any funds made available  
577 for that purpose;

578           (d) Enter any part of the Mississippi Community College  
579 Board, individual community and junior colleges, or other  
580 workforce training facilities operated by the state or its  
581 subdivisions;

582           (e) Serve at the will and pleasure of the executive  
583 committee;

584           (f) Promulgate rules and regulations, subject to  
585 oversight by the executive committee, not inconsistent with this  
586 chapter, as may be necessary to enforce the provisions in Chapter  
587 476, Laws of 2020; and

588           (g) Perform any other actions he or she, in  
589 consultation with the executive committee, deems necessary to  
590 fulfill the duties under Chapter 476, Laws of 2020.

591           (9) The Office of Workforce Development and Mississippi  
592 Community College Board shall collaborate in the administration





593 and oversight of the Mississippi Workforce Enhancement Training  
594 Fund and Mississippi Works Fund, as described in Section 71-5-353.  
595 The executive director shall maintain complete and exclusive  
596 operational control of the office's functions.

597 (10) The office shall file an annual report with the  
598 Governor, Secretary of State, President of the Senate, Secretary  
599 of the Senate, Speaker of the House, and Clerk of the House not  
600 later than October 1 of each year regarding all funds approved by  
601 the office to be expended on workforce training during the prior  
602 calendar year. The report shall include:

603 (a) Information on the performance of the Mississippi  
604 Workforce Enhancement Training Fund and the Mississippi Works  
605 Fund, in terms of adding value to the local and state economy, the  
606 contribution to future growth of the state economy, and movement  
607 toward state goals, including increasing the labor force  
608 participation rate; and

609 (b) With respect to specific workforce training  
610 projects:

611 (i) The location of the training;

612 (ii) The amount allocated to the project;

613 (iii) The purpose of the project;

614 (iv) The specific business entity that is the  
615 beneficiary of the project; and

616 (v) The number of employees intended to be trained  
617 and actually trained, if applicable, in the course of the project.



618 (c) All information concerning a proposed project which  
619 is provided to the executive director shall be kept confidential.  
620 Such confidentiality shall not limit disclosure under the  
621 Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983 of records describing the  
622 nature, quantity, cost or other pertinent information related to  
623 the activities of, or services performed using, the Mississippi  
624 Workforce Enhancement Training Fund or the Mississippi Works Fund.

625 (11) Nothing in Chapter 476, Laws of 2020 [Senate Bill No.  
626 2564] shall void or otherwise interrupt any contract, lease, grant  
627 or other agreement previously entered into by the State Workforce  
628 Investment Board, Mississippi Community College Board, individual  
629 community or junior colleges, or other entities.

630 (12) The Office of Workforce Development shall have as  
631 additional responsibilities the administration of the "Mississippi  
632 Nurse/Health Science Training and Retention Act" established in  
633 Section 1 of this act.

634 **SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
635 and after its passage and shall stand repealed on July 1, 2026.

