

By: Representatives Haney, Summers

To: Workforce Development

HOUSE BILL NO. 893

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT OFFICE OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, IN
 2 CONSULTATION WITH THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS
 3 THROUGHOUT THE STATE, SHALL PILOT THE SKILLPATH 2030 PROGRAM; TO
 4 PROVIDE THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE SKILLPATH 2030 PROGRAM IS TO TEACH
 5 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SKILLS AND ALLOW THEM TO EARN CERTIFICATIONS
 6 TO EITHER RECEIVE EMPLOYMENT AT A TRADE-RELATED JOB AFTER HIGH
 7 SCHOOL OR RECEIVE COURSE CREDIT TO FURTHER THEIR EDUCATION AT A
 8 COMMUNITY OR JUNIOR COLLEGE; TO PROVIDE HOW THE PROGRAM WILL BE
 9 IMPLEMENTED; TO PROVIDE A REPORTING REQUIREMENT; AND FOR RELATED
 10 PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1.** (1) The Office of Workforce Development, in
 13 consultation with the planning and development districts
 14 throughout the state, shall pilot the SkillPath 2030 Program. The
 15 purpose of the SkillPath 2030 Program is to teach high school
 16 students skills and allow them to earn certifications to either
 17 receive employment at a trade-related job after high school or
 18 receive course credit to further their education at a community or
 19 junior college.

20 (2) The Office of Workforce Development shall partner with
 21 the four (4) planning and development districts (PDD) for the
 22 establishment of the program. Each PDD shall select three (3)



23 schools within their district to implement the program. Subject
24 to appropriation by the Legislature, the program, through its
25 vendors, shall set up trade-related skill labs for advanced
26 manufacturing, information technology, transportation and
27 logistics and healthcare. The program shall also provide all
28 equipment, software and instructional training that may be
29 necessary for the function of the skill lab.

30 (3) The Office of Workforce Development shall promulgate any
31 rules and regulations as necessary to implement the program.

32 (4) The Office of Workforce Development shall submit an
33 annual report to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the
34 House of Representatives, Chair of the House Workforce Development
35 Committee and Chair of the Senate Economic and Workforce
36 Development Committee that details the progress of piloting the
37 program, how many students have been served through the program,
38 and how many students received employment after completing the
39 program.

40 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
41 and after July 1, 2023.

