

By: Representatives Felsher, Summers

To: Workforce Development

HOUSE BILL NO. 988

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI YOUTH CAREER AND WORKFORCE
 2 PREPARATION GRANT PROGRAM TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE OFFICE OF
 3 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT; TO PROVIDE THAT THE PROGRAM SHALL BE USED
 4 BY THE OFFICE OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, WITH THE MISSISSIPPI
 5 DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY ACTING AS THE FISCAL AGENT, FOR
 6 THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR YOUTH AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS
 7 THAT HELP WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOFT AND HARD SKILLS AND THAT
 8 ARE FOCUSED ON CAREER AND WORKFORCE PREPARATION; TO PROVIDE THAT
 9 ELIGIBLE GRANT RECIPIENTS SHALL INCLUDE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
 10 NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AFFILIATED WITH A CONGRESSIONALLY
 11 CHARTERED NATIONAL ORGANIZATION THAT HAS NATIONAL QUALITY AND
 12 SAFETY STANDARDS; TO PROVIDE THE CRITERIA THAT MUST BE SUBMITTED
 13 TO THE OFFICE IN ORDER FOR AN APPLICANT TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A
 14 GRANT; TO PROVIDE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ABOUT THE PROGRAM; AND
 15 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

17 **SECTION 1.** (1) There is created the Mississippi Youth
 18 Career and Workforce Preparation Grant Program to be administered
 19 by the Office of Workforce Development. The grant program shall
 20 be used by the Office of Workforce Development, with the
 21 Mississippi Department of Employment Security acting as the fiscal
 22 agent, for the purpose of providing support for youth after-school
 23 programs that help with the development of soft and hard skills
 24 and that are focused on career and workforce preparation. Grant



25 funds may be used for workforce readiness, workforce training,
26 subcontracted services to carry out workforce training, equipment,
27 personnel, software and technology, and transportation to the
28 after-school program. The grant program shall be funded from
29 monies appropriated by the Legislature for that purpose.

30 (2) The Office of Workforce Development shall prescribe the
31 terms and conditions of grants awarded under the program.

32 Eligible grant recipients shall include youth development
33 non-profit organizations affiliated with a congressionally
34 chartered national organization that has national quality and
35 safety standards. In order to receive a grant under the program,
36 applicants must submit a grant narrative and budget to the Office
37 of Workforce Development that satisfies the following criteria:

38 (a) Reflects the intended use of the grant funds;

39 (b) Directly identifies the workforce readiness
40 programs that will be used;

41 (c) Identifies the workforce pathway the applicant
42 seeks to create or expand through their after-school program and
43 explains how this pathway connects to the needs of the local
44 economy;

45 (d) Identifies any community partners, employers,
46 and/or virtual reality technology and services that may be used
47 and clearly defines the role they will play; and

48 (e) Any other information that the office determines is
49 necessary.



50 (3) Grant recipients may subcontract with virtual reality
51 technology and services, providing programming for youth to
52 enhance career and workforce preparation.

53 (4) The Office of Workforce Development may use a maximum of
54 five percent (5%) of funds appropriated for the program for the
55 administration of the program.

56 (5) The grant recipients shall submit an annual report to
57 the Office of Workforce Development that contains a detailed
58 explanation of how the funds appropriated for the program were
59 awarded, how those grants were used by grant recipients, how many
60 children are being trained in the after-school program and any
61 other information deemed necessary to report by the Office of
62 Workforce Development. The Office of Workforce Development shall
63 submit the report to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the
64 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chair of the House
65 Workforce Development Committee and the Chair of the Senate
66 Economic and Workforce Development Committee.

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

