

By: Representatives Gunn, Anthony

To: Workforce Development

HOUSE BILL NO. 1301

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-73-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 MODIFY THE DIRECTIVE OF THE OFFICE OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FROM
3 PILOTING A CAREER COACHING PROGRAM IN MIDDLE SCHOOLS AND HIGH
4 SCHOOLS, TO IMPLEMENTING SUCH PROGRAM FOR THE LONG TERM; AND FOR
5 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-73-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 37-73-3. (1) Subject to appropriation by the Legislature,
10 the Office of Workforce Development shall * * * implement a career
11 coaching program to support middle schools and high schools as
12 students are exposed, prepared and connected to career avenues
13 within and beyond the classroom setting. Through strong
14 partnerships with economic and business leaders, paired with
15 viable relationships with school districts, the career coaches
16 shall target the alignment of students' strengths with intentional
17 academic and work-based learning in pursuit of meaningful
18 professional employment.



19 (2) Subject to appropriation by the Legislature, the Office
20 of Workforce Development, working through the Department of
21 Employment Security as fiscal agent, shall establish rules and
22 regulations to operate the career coaching program, which may
23 include granting funds to eligible recipients such as state
24 agencies, regional workforce entities and other nonprofits, to
25 hire coaches. The Office of Workforce Development shall establish
26 criteria for coaches and shall work with partner organizations to
27 identify candidates and measure outcomes.

28 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
29 and after its passage.

