

By: Representatives Gunn, Anthony

To: Workforce Development

HOUSE BILL NO. 1301  
(As Passed the House)

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; TO  
5 AUTHORIZE THE OFFICE TO PROVIDE ALL CAREER COACHES ACCESS TO A  
6 SECURE END-TO-END PLATFORM THAT ENABLES THEM TO USE ADVANCE  
7 ANALYTICS FOR THE PURPOSE ASSISTING STUDENTS TO DEVELOP CUSTOMIZED  
8 CAREER PATHWAYS AND DIRECTLY CONNECTING STUDENTS WITH  
9 POST-SECONDARY AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES THAT MATCH THEIR  
10 SKILLS AND INTERESTS; TO PROVIDE WHAT THE PLATFORM MAY INCLUDE;  
11 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

15 37-73-3. (1) Subject to appropriation by the Legislature,  
16 the Office of Workforce Development shall \* \* \* implement a career  
17 coaching program to support middle schools and high schools as  
18 students are exposed, prepared and connected to career avenues  
19 within and beyond the classroom setting. Through strong  
20 partnerships with economic and business leaders, paired with  
21 viable relationships with school districts, the career coaches  
22 shall target the alignment of students' strengths with intentional



23 academic and work-based learning in pursuit of meaningful  
24 professional employment.

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

34 (3) Subject to appropriation, the Office of Workforce  
35 Development may provide all career coaches access to a secure  
36 end-to-end platform that enables career coaches to use advance  
37 analytics for the purpose of assisting students to develop  
38 customized career pathways and directly connecting students with  
39 post-secondary and employment opportunities that match their  
40 skills and interests. The platform used may include a mentorship  
41 program connecting students with industry professionals, direct  
42 access to a wide range of professional jobs and internships, a  
43 college and scholarship search tool and the ability for each  
44 student to create a comprehensive student profile that can be  
45 viewed by potential employers and college admission officers.

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

