

By: Representative Scott

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1460

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE "D" AND "F" RATED SCHOOL DISTRICTS, IN
 2 COLLABORATION WITH A LOCAL COMMUNITY OR JUNIOR COLLEGE, TO
 3 ESTABLISH A SUMMER YOUTH TRAINING EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM FOR RISING
 4 SOPHOMORE STUDENTS; TO REQUIRE A YOUTH TRAINING EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM
 5 TO INCLUDE COMPONENTS ON SOFT SKILLS, PERSONAL LIVING SKILLS, AND
 6 EDUCATION AND ACADEMICS; TO AWARD STUDENTS WHO COMPLETE THE
 7 PROGRAM WITH A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION AND A STIPEND IF FUNDING
 8 IS MADE AVAILABLE FOR SUCH PURPOSES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** (1) The school board of a school district with a
 11 "D" or "F" accountability rating, in collaboration with the local
 12 community or junior college, is authorized to establish a Summer
 13 Youth Training Employment Program for the purpose of providing
 14 high school students with skills in pursuing employment
 15 opportunities and guidance in the selection of academic courses
 16 consistent with the long range educational and career goals of
 17 each student. A program established under this section must be
 18 comprised of no less than the following three (3) components:
 19 soft skills; personal living skills; and education and academics
 20 in preparation for vocational training or college after high
 21 school graduation.



22 (2) Students who have completed the ninth grade are eligible
23 to participate in a Summer Youth Training Employment Program
24 established under this section during the summer before entering
25 the tenth grade. Sessions of the program may be held at a high
26 school or high schools in the district or on the campus of the
27 local community or junior college.

28 (3) The component in soft skills of a Summer Youth Training
29 Employment Program established under this section must be designed
30 to prepare students to be successful in whatever job they
31 ultimately may hold as well as in the classroom. The soft skills
32 component must include training and instruction in no less than
33 the following topics:

34 (a) Time management, including punctuality and
35 attendance at work;

36 (b) Teamwork;

37 (c) Positive attitudes;

38 (d) Creative thinking;

39 (e) Conflict resolution;

40 (f) Motivation;

41 (g) Interpersonal skills such as communication,
42 listening and empathy; and

43 (h) Respect of authority and coworkers.

44 (4) The personal living skills component of a program
45 established under this section must include training and
46 instruction in no less than the following topics:



- 47 (a) Beginning a job search;
- 48 (b) Completing a neat and well-written job application,
49 using proper spelling and grammar;
- 50 (c) Dressing appropriately when delivering a hand
51 written application or going to an interview;
- 52 (d) Demonstrating interest in a prospective job and
53 communicating respectfully with a prospective employer;
- 54 (e) Appropriate use of personal cell phones in the
55 workplace and in school; and
- 56 (f) Personal financial responsibility, including:
- 57 (i) How to open and maintain a personal checking
58 account;
- 59 (ii) How to open a savings account and dedicate a
60 portion of earnings to savings;
- 61 (iii) The importance of resisting unsolicited
62 offers for credit as a high school student; and
- 63 (iv) The importance of paying financial
64 obligations in order to establish good credit.
- 65 (5) The component on education and academics in preparation
66 for vocational training or college after high school graduation
67 must include no less than the following:
- 68 (a) An assessment of each participating student which
69 identifies the student's interests, strengths and aptitudes and
70 possible career fields that suit the student;



71 (b) Exposure to career fields in which there is a
72 foreseeable need for workers and the high school and community or
73 junior college courses and baccalaureate degree programs that will
74 equip a student for an occupation in one (1) of those fields;

75 (c) Direct exposure through observation on the
76 community or junior college campus of technical courses available
77 to prepare students for a trade after high school;

78 (d) Information on postsecondary academic courses that
79 will earn a student credit towards the general requirements of a
80 baccalaureate degree which are available at the local community or
81 junior college and which may be taken while the student is still
82 in high school or after graduation;

83 (e) The importance of doing one's best in high school
84 and college and availing oneself of tutoring and counseling when
85 needed; and

86 (f) Identifying sources of and procuring financial
87 assistance available to students pursuing postsecondary career and
88 vocational training or a bachelor's degree.

89 (6) The State Legislature shall appropriate Two Million
90 Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) for the operation of this program.

91 (7) Students who complete a Summer Youth Training Employment
92 Program established under this section will be awarded a
93 certificate of completion evidencing their successful
94 participation in the program.



95 (8) A school district that establishes a Summer Youth
96 Training Employment Program shall encourage ninth grade students
97 to enroll in the program. The district may offer a stipend to
98 students who complete the program as a financial incentive. A
99 school district is encouraged to apply for funding from any
100 available source, public or private, to cover the costs associated
101 with the expansion of the training instruction in the program and
102 providing stipends to students. Grants or gifts may be accepted
103 by a school district for the purposes of this subsection (8).

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

