

By: Representative Scott

To: County Affairs;
Municipalities

HOUSE BILL NO. 1464

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES TO ESTABLISH
2 SUMMER YOUTH WORK PROGRAMS TO FACILITATE THE EMPLOYMENT OF HIGH
3 SCHOOL YOUTH IN COMMUNITY JOBS; TO PRESCRIBE ELIGIBILITY
4 REQUIREMENTS FOR SUMMER EMPLOYMENT THROUGH A SUMMER YOUTH WORK
5 PROGRAM; TO AUTHORIZE COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES TO ACCEPT ANY
6 AVAILABLE PUBLIC OR PRIVATE FUNDING TO COVER THE PROGRAM'S
7 ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS AND STUDENT EMPLOYEE WAGES; AND FOR RELATED
8 PURPOSES.

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

10 WHEREAS, each year, thousands of high school students across
11 the State of Mississippi complete the school year without summer
12 employment or meaningful and productive ways to spend their time,
13 which often creates boredom that may lead to mischief or even
14 criminal activity by youth; and

15 WHEREAS, at the same time, the communities in which our young
16 adults live have countless opportunities to engage the youth in
17 meaningful work through which they can learn to be responsible,
18 develop good character and a sense of self-worth, and gain
19 valuable workforce experience while having a safe, productive way
20 to spend their summer months and earn income; and



21 WHEREAS, just a few of the many job possibilities often
22 available through municipal and county agencies and nonprofit
23 entities are: assisting with children's activities offered by
24 little league sports programs or day camps; seasonal work in local
25 parks and recreation facilities; and temporary positions available
26 in local hospitals, schools with summer programs and other
27 nonprofit entities serving the public; and

28 WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Legislature, in passing this
29 act, to encourage communities across the state to develop programs
30 that can bridge unemployed high school students with opportunities
31 for meaningful summer employment, thereby positively impacting the
32 individual lives of those young persons who participate in the
33 program as well as the quality of life of the entire communities
34 themselves; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

36 **SECTION 1.** (1) The board of supervisors of any county, in
37 its discretion, and the governing authority of any municipality,
38 in its discretion, may establish a summer youth work program for
39 the purpose of facilitating the employment of eligible high school
40 students in temporary seasonal jobs that have a positive impact on
41 the local community.

42 (2) A board of supervisors of a county or the governing
43 authority of a municipality that establishes a summer youth work
44 program under this section shall prepare a list of all jobs
45 available to students through the program with the county or



46 municipality. In compiling the list, the board of supervisors of
47 a county or the governing authority of a municipality, as the case
48 may be, shall solicit information relating to any jobs that may be
49 available through local nonprofit organizations in order to also
50 include those employment opportunities on the list. The list of
51 summer youth work program jobs must be provided to each public and
52 private high school in the community before March 1 of each year.
53 In addition, the board of supervisors of a county or the governing
54 authority of a municipality, as the case may be, shall publish the
55 list of available jobs on its website, which must be kept
56 up-to-date with new job postings and the status of jobs no longer
57 available when those positions are filled. The list of jobs must
58 include detailed job descriptions that provide no less than the
59 following information for each position: the start and end dates;
60 a description of the nature of the work and duties and
61 expectations of summer employees; the required hours; the salary,
62 which must be no less than the minimum wage rate; any special
63 physical requirements or restrictions; and any other information
64 pertinent to a particular job.

65 (3) In order to be eligible for a job through a summer youth
66 work program, a student must be no less than sixteen (16) years of
67 age nor more than nineteen (19) years of age. The student may not
68 have graduated from high school yet and may not have any criminal
69 convictions or criminal charges pending other than minor traffic
70 violations. Upon receiving an application to participate in the



71 work program from a student, the board of supervisors of the
72 county or the governing authority of the municipality shall assess
73 the student's age, interests and work-readiness to determine the
74 most appropriate job available for that student. If, in any year,
75 there are more applicants than available positions, the board of
76 supervisors of the county or the governing authority of the
77 municipality, as the case may be, shall prioritize placing
78 students who are members of households demonstrating the greatest
79 financial need.

80 (4) Each youth selected to participate in the summer youth
81 work program must present a letter from the student's parent or
82 legal guardian granting consent for the child to work. The
83 student and parent or legal guardian also must sign a waiver of
84 liability releasing the board of supervisors of the county or the
85 governing authority of the municipality, as the case may be, or
86 any nonprofit agency employing a student from any liability that
87 may arise from the student's work.

88 (5) A board of supervisors of a county or a governing
89 authority of a municipality establishing a summer youth work
90 program may accept any funding, public or private, that may be
91 made available for the administration of the program and costs of
92 the student employees' wages. Subject to the availability of
93 funding for such purpose, the governmental entity may award grants
94 to nonprofit entities providing jobs through the work program to
95 cover the wages of students hired for those positions. Counties



96 and municipalities establishing summer youth work programs are
97 encouraged to apply for available funding from state and federal
98 grant programs as well as private sources.

99 (6) A board of supervisors of a county or a governing
100 authority of a municipality establishing a summer youth work
101 program may enter into an agreement with another organization for
102 the administration of the program.

103 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this act shall be codified in
104 Chapter 25, Title 17, Mississippi Code of 1972.

105 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
106 and after July 1, 2023.

