

By: Senator(s) Horhn

To: Education;
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2748

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-153-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
 2 TO PROVIDE THAT BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND SUBJECT TO
 3 AVAILABLE FUNDING, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL DEVELOP AND
 4 FUND THE SKILLPATH 2030 PROGRAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF TEACHING HIGH
 5 SCHOOL STUDENTS SKILLS RELATED TO THE CAREER AND TECHNICAL FIELDS;
 6 TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT TO PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS TO
 7 ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE FOR THE MINIMUM CERTIFICATIONS
 8 THAT THE SKILLPATH 300 PROGRAM SHALL INCLUDE; AND FOR RELATED
 9 PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-153-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
 12 amended as follows:

13 37-153-15. (1) As used in this article:

14 (a) The words "industry certification" mean a process
 15 through which students are assessed by an independent, third-party
 16 certifying entity using predetermined standards for knowledge,
 17 skills and competencies, resulting in the award of a credential
 18 that is nationally recognized and must be at least one (1) of the
 19 following:

20 (i) Within an industry that addresses a critical
 21 local, regional or statewide economic need;



22 (ii) Linked to an occupation that is included in
23 the State Department of Employment Security's occupations in
24 high-demand list; or

25 (iii) Linked to an occupation that is identified
26 as emerging.

27 (b) The words "qualifying industry certification" mean
28 an industry certification that is linked to an occupation with
29 wages of at least seventy percent (70%) of the median state income
30 unless the industry certification is stackable to another
31 postsecondary or professional credential which is linked to an
32 occupation which meets the wage criterion.

33 (2) The State Workforce Investment Board shall provide the
34 State Board of Education annually with a list of qualifying
35 industry certifications. If the occupations identified in the
36 list are not substantially the same as those occupations
37 identified in the prior year, the State Board of Education shall
38 provide reasonable notice of the changes to school districts.

39 (3) Beginning in fiscal year 2019-2020 and subject to
40 available funding, the Department of Education shall pay a career
41 and technical education incentive grant to the public school for
42 each student enrolled in the public school who earns a qualifying
43 industry certification. The amount per student for the career and
44 technical education incentive grant shall be Six Hundred Dollars
45 (\$600.00). If the statewide sum of the career and technical
46 education incentive grants awarded pursuant to this section



47 exceeds the amount of available funds appropriated for the grants,
48 the grants per student shall be reduced proportionately to cover
49 all eligible grants under this section. Any costs accrued during
50 one (1) fiscal year may be claimed and reimbursed in the following
51 fiscal year.

52 (4) The grants may be used for qualifying industry
53 certification examination fees, professional development for
54 teachers in career and technical education programs under this
55 section, student instructional support for programs that lead to
56 qualifying industry certifications, or to increase access to
57 qualifying industry certifications. Any grants awarded under this
58 section may not be used to supplant funds provided for the basic
59 operation of the career and technical education programs.

60 (5) On or before October 1 of each year, the Department of
61 Education, working in collaboration with the Office of Workforce
62 Development and any other entities as necessary, shall submit a
63 report to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of
64 the House of Representatives, the Chairmen of the House and Senate
65 Education Committees, the Chairman of the House Workforce
66 Development Committee and the Chairman of the Senate Economic and
67 Workforce Development Committee on the following:

68 (a) The number of students who enrolled in a career and
69 technical education course or program that leads to a qualifying
70 industry certification.



71 (b) The number of students who earned a qualifying
72 industry certification by certification.

73 (c) The amount of career and technical education
74 incentive grants awarded by the school.

75 (d) The amount of career and technical education
76 incentive grants awarded per student.

77 (e) Aggregated demographic data on the students who
78 earned a qualifying industry certification, including the
79 qualifying industry certifications earned by rural and urban
80 students.

81 (6) Beginning in fiscal year 2024-2025 and subject to
82 available funding, the Department of Education shall develop and
83 fund the SkillPath 2030 Program for the purpose of teaching high
84 school students skills related to the career and technical fields.
85 The department shall promulgate rules and regulations to
86 administer the program. The SkillPath 300 Program shall include
87 at least the following certifications:

88 (a) Industrial PLC Systems;

89 (b) System Based Electronics;

90 (c) Automotive Electronics;

91 (d) Certified production technician;

92 (e) Certified logistics technician;

93 (f) Certified SolidWorks Associate CAD;

94 (g) 3D Printing; and

95 (h) Microsoft Office.



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

