

By: Representative Scott

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 265

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, 2024.

