

By: Representative Brown

To: Workforce Development

HOUSE BILL NO. 588

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD TO
 2 ESTABLISH AND ADMINISTER A 21ST CENTURY EMPLOYMENT GRANT PROGRAM
 3 FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPANDING PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN COMMUNITY AND
 4 JUNIOR COLLEGES AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS; TO
 5 STIPULATE THE CRITERIA FOR GRANT QUALIFICATIONS; TO PROVIDE FOR
 6 THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ADVISORY BOARD, WHICH SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE
 7 FOR REVIEWING THE PROGRESS OF GRANT RECIPIENTS, PRESCRIBE
 8 GUIDELINES FOR THE TYPES OF CERTIFICATES TO BE PURSUED BY
 9 COMMUNITY OR JUNIOR COLLEGES THAT WOULD BENEFIT CURRENT EMPLOYER
 10 AND FUTURE EMPLOYERS LOOKING TO LOCATE IN THE STATE; AND FOR
 11 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

13 **SECTION 1.** (1) Subject to appropriation, the Mississippi
 14 Community College Board shall establish and administer a 21st
 15 Century Employment grant program. To qualify for a grant, a
 16 community or junior college district must jointly establish a
 17 collaborative regional partnership with workforce development
 18 organizations, including community-based organizations with a
 19 vested interest in the workforce, regional economic development
 20 organizations and economic development officials in the community
 21 or junior college district, along with manufacturers, healthcare
 22 service providers and innovative technology businesses that have a



23 presence in the district, to provide a manufacturing training
24 program. A grant recipient must provide the Mississippi Community
25 College Board with a plan that meets all of the following
26 requirements:

27 (a) The plan shall define specific goals that a student
28 must meet upon graduation.

29 (b) The plan shall include the type of professional
30 skills that will be taught in order for the students to gain and
31 retain employment. The professional skills curriculum in the
32 program shall include, but not be limited to, training on all of
33 the following:

- 34 (i) Effective communication skills;
- 35 (ii) Teamwork;
- 36 (iii) Dependability;
- 37 (iv) Adaptability;
- 38 (v) Conflict resolution;
- 39 (vi) Flexibility;
- 40 (vii) Leadership;
- 41 (viii) Problem-solving;
- 42 (ix) Research;
- 43 (x) Creativity;
- 44 (xi) Work ethic; and
- 45 (xii) Integrity.

46 In awarding grants under this section, the Mississippi
47 Community College Board must give priority to plans that



48 demonstrate a formal articulation agreement between a community or
49 junior college and an industry sector employer.

50 (c) The plan shall include a budget that includes any
51 outside donations, including any in-kind donations, made to help
52 the program, including from nonprofit entities and individuals.

53 (d) The plan shall include the proposed number of
54 individuals who would be enrolled in the program, along with the
55 places that those individuals could be employed at after
56 graduation and what industries would be targeted. The plan must
57 support a seamless transition into higher education and career
58 opportunities and must outline the college credit and on-the-job
59 training hours that will transfer from the high school to a
60 community college.

61 (e) The plan shall require a private-public partnership
62 clause that requires private businesses to contribute an amount
63 determined by the Mississippi Community College Board and the
64 collaborative regional partnership that does not exceed forty
65 percent (40%) of the amount of the total project. The applicant
66 must provide the Mississippi Community College Board with a
67 receipt of contributions from businesses to evidence compliance
68 with this paragraph. However, businesses may contribute equipment
69 or offer their facilities, in which case a business shall
70 establish a cost of use of its facility, to meet the requirements
71 of this paragraph.



72 (f) The plan shall indicate the certificates that the
73 community or junior college will offer to students upon
74 graduation, as agreed to by the collaborative regional
75 partnership. The community or junior college shall offer no less
76 than six (6) types of industry-recognized certificates.

77 (2) (a) The Mississippi Community College Board shall
78 establish an advisory board for the grant program established
79 under subsection (1) that consists of all of the following
80 members:

81 (i) The President of Mississippi Economic Council;

82 (ii) The Executive Director of the Mississippi
83 Community College Board;

84 (iii) The State Superintendent of Public
85 Education;

86 (iv) The Executive Director of the Mississippi
87 Department of Employment Security;

88 (v) Two (2) Senators appointed by the Lieutenant
89 Governor;

90 (vi) Two (2) Representatives appointed by the
91 Speaker of the House of Representatives;

92 (vii) A member from a statewide organization that
93 represents manufacturing companies throughout the state, appointed
94 by the Governor;



95 (viii) A member who represents at-risk students,
96 including, but not limited to, opportunity youth, appointed by the
97 Governor;

98 (ix) A member from a statewide organization that
99 represents multiple employee unions in the state, appointed by the
100 Governor;

101 (x) A member from a trade union, appointed by the
102 Governor;

103 (xi) A member from a statewide organization that
104 represents the business community, appointed by the Governor;

105 (xii) A member from a statewide organization that
106 represents service employees in the state, appointed by the
107 Governor;

108 (xiii) Educators representing various regions of
109 the state from professional teachers' organizations, appointed by
110 the Governor;

111 (xiv) A member from a statewide organization that
112 represents hospitals in the state, appointed by the Governor;

113 (xv) A president of a community or junior college,
114 appointed by the Governor; and

115 (xvi) A district superintendent of a high school
116 district, appointed by the Governor.

117 (b) The members of the advisory board shall serve
118 without compensation but shall be reimbursed for their reasonable
119 and necessary expenses from funds appropriated to the Mississippi



120 Community College Board for that purpose, including travel,
121 subject to the rules of the appropriate travel control board.

122 (c) The advisory board shall meet at the call of the
123 Mississippi Community College Board and shall report to the
124 Mississippi Community College Board. The Mississippi Community
125 College Board shall provide administrative and other support to
126 the advisory board.

127 (3) The advisory board established under subsection (2)
128 shall have all of the following duties:

129 (a) To review the progress made by each grant
130 recipient, including, but not limited to, the gainful-employment
131 success rate, how many students remain employed for how long, and
132 how many students went on to receive higher manufacturing
133 certificates;

134 (b) To review how many students went on to complete a
135 paid internship or apprenticeship upon graduation;

136 (c) To compile a list of programs offered by each
137 community or junior college;

138 (d) To analyze whether the certificates are closing
139 the gap in education for the current needs of the labor force, and
140 to offer suggestions on how to close the gap if one (1) still
141 exists;

142 (e) To suggest certificates that could help future
143 employers looking to locate in the state;

144 (f) To offer guidelines for the types of certificates



145 that a community or junior college should pursue; and

146 (g) To offer possible rules to the Mississippi
147 Community College Board that the grant process should follow.

148 (4) The Mississippi Community College Board may adopt any
149 rules necessary for the purposes of this section.

150 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
151 and after July 1, 2024.

