

By: Representative Roberson

To: Workforce Development

HOUSE BILL NO. 1604

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-73-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
 2 PROVIDE THAT THE SINGLE LIST OF NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED INDUSTRY
 3 CERTIFICATIONS SHALL ONLY BE USED FOR REIMBURSEMENT UNDER SECTION
 4 37-153-15 AND NOT IN THE MISSISSIPPI STATEWIDE ACCOUNTABILITY
 5 SYSTEM OR IN DIPLOMA ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS; TO AMEND SECTION
 6 37-153-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT THE CAREER
 7 AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION GRANTS MAY BE USED TO PURCHASE NEEDED
 8 EQUIPMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-73-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
 11 amended as follows:

12 37-73-7. The State Workforce Investment Board, by and
 13 through the Office of Workforce Development, shall create, in
 14 consultation with the Mississippi Department of Education, the
 15 Mississippi Community College Board, the Mississippi State
 16 University Research and Curriculum Unit and other appropriate
 17 business and industry stakeholders, a single list of nationally
 18 recognized industry certifications * * * for reimbursement under
 19 Section 37-153-15.

20 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-153-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
 21 amended as follows:



22 37-153-15. (1) As used in this article:

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

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

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

34 (iii) Linked to an occupation that is identified
35 as emerging.

36 (b) The words "qualifying industry certification" mean
37 an industry certification that is linked to an occupation with
38 wages of at least seventy percent (70%) of the median state income
39 unless the industry certification is stackable to another
40 postsecondary or professional credential which is linked to an
41 occupation which meets the wage criterion.

42 (2) The State Workforce Investment Board shall provide the
43 State Board of Education annually with a list of qualifying
44 industry certifications. If the occupations identified in the
45 list are not substantially the same as those occupations



46 identified in the prior year, the State Board of Education shall
47 provide reasonable notice of the changes to school districts.

48 (3) Beginning in fiscal year 2019-2020 and subject to
49 available funding, the Department of Education shall pay a career
50 and technical education incentive grant to the public school for
51 each student enrolled in the public school who earns a qualifying
52 industry certification. The amount per student for the career and
53 technical education incentive grant shall be Six Hundred Dollars
54 (\$600.00). If the statewide sum of the career and technical
55 education incentive grants awarded pursuant to this section
56 exceeds the amount of available funds appropriated for the grants,
57 the grants per student shall be reduced proportionately to cover
58 all eligible grants under this section. Any costs accrued during
59 one (1) fiscal year may be claimed and reimbursed in the following
60 fiscal year.

61 (4) The grants may be used for qualifying industry
62 certification examination fees, professional development for
63 teachers in career and technical education programs under this
64 section, student instructional support for programs that lead to
65 qualifying industry certifications, * * * to increase access to
66 qualifying industry certifications or to purchase needed
67 equipment. Any grants awarded under this section may not be used
68 to supplant funds provided for the basic operation of the career
69 and technical education programs.



70 (5) On or before October 1 of each year, the Department of
71 Education, working in collaboration with the Office of Workforce
72 Development and any other entities as necessary, shall submit a
73 report to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of
74 the House of Representatives, the Chairmen of the House and Senate
75 Education Committees, the Chairman of the House Workforce
76 Development Committee and the Chairman of the Senate Economic and
77 Workforce Development Committee on the following:

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

81 (b) The number of students who earned a qualifying
82 industry certification by certification.

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

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

87 (e) Aggregated demographic data on the students who
88 earned a qualifying industry certification, including the
89 qualifying industry certifications earned by rural and urban
90 students.

91 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
92 and after July 1, 2024.

