

By: Representative Roberson

To: Workforce Development

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
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 PROVIDE THAT THE  
6 STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD SHALL CREATE A SEPARATE LIST OF  
7 NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HIGH VALUE INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS FOR  
8 PARTICIPANTS ENROLLED IN COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES; TO  
9 REQUIRE, SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE FUNDING, THE MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY  
10 COLLEGE BOARD TO PAY A CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION INCENTIVE  
11 GRANT TO CERTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGES; TO AMEND SECTION 37-153-15,  
12 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT THE CAREER AND TECHNICAL  
13 EDUCATION GRANTS MAY BE USED TO PURCHASE NEEDED EQUIPMENT; AND FOR  
14 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

18 37-73-7. (1) The State Workforce Investment Board, by and  
19 through the Office of Workforce Development, shall create, in  
20 consultation with the Mississippi Department of Education, the  
21 Mississippi Community College Board, the Mississippi State  
22 University Research and Curriculum Unit and other appropriate  
23 business and industry stakeholders, a single list of nationally



24 recognized industry certifications \* \* \* for reimbursement under  
25 Section 37-153-15.

26 (2) The State Workforce Investment Board, by and through the  
27 Office of Workforce Development, shall create, in consultation  
28 with the Mississippi Community College Board, the Mississippi  
29 State University Research and Curriculum Unit and other  
30 appropriate business and industry stakeholders, a separate list of  
31 nationally recognized high value industry certifications for  
32 participants enrolled at Mississippi Community and Junior Colleges  
33 for reimbursement from the Mississippi Community College Board,  
34 pending availability of funds. This list shall align with the  
35 approved State Workforce Investment Board K-12 industry  
36 certification list to encourage more students to connect their  
37 secondary career preparatory work with postsecondary  
38 opportunities.

39 (3) Subject to available funding beginning in fiscal year  
40 2025, the Mississippi Community College Board shall pay a career  
41 and technical education incentive grant to the community college  
42 for each student enrolled in the community college who earns a  
43 qualifying industry certification. The amount per student for the  
44 career and technical education incentive grant shall be Six  
45 Hundred Dollars (\$600.00). The Mississippi Community College  
46 Board shall ensure that no college is reimbursed for a student  
47 receiving certification that has already been obtained through any  
48 secondary or postsecondary institution. If the statewide sum of



49 the career and technical education incentive grants awarded  
50 pursuant to this section exceeds the amount of available funds  
51 appropriated for the grants, the grants per student shall be  
52 reduced proportionately to cover all eligible grants under this  
53 section. Any costs accrued during one (1) fiscal year may be  
54 claimed and reimbursed in the following fiscal year.

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

57       37-153-15. (1) As used in this article:

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

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

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

69                   (iii) Linked to an occupation that is identified  
70 as emerging.

71           (b) The words "qualifying industry certification" mean  
72 an industry certification that is linked to an occupation with  
73 wages of at least seventy percent (70%) of the median state income



74 unless the industry certification is stackable to another  
75 postsecondary or professional credential which is linked to an  
76 occupation which meets the wage criterion.

77 (2) The State Workforce Investment Board shall provide the  
78 State Board of Education annually with a list of qualifying  
79 industry certifications. If the occupations identified in the  
80 list are not substantially the same as those occupations  
81 identified in the prior year, the State Board of Education shall  
82 provide reasonable notice of the changes to school districts.

83 (3) Beginning in fiscal year 2019-2020 and subject to  
84 available funding, the Department of Education shall pay a career  
85 and technical education incentive grant to the public school for  
86 each student enrolled in the public school who earns a qualifying  
87 industry certification. The amount per student for the career and  
88 technical education incentive grant shall be Six Hundred Dollars  
89 (\$600.00). If the statewide sum of the career and technical  
90 education incentive grants awarded pursuant to this section  
91 exceeds the amount of available funds appropriated for the grants,  
92 the grants per student shall be reduced proportionately to cover  
93 all eligible grants under this section. Any costs accrued during  
94 one (1) fiscal year may be claimed and reimbursed in the following  
95 fiscal year.

96 (4) The grants may be used for qualifying industry  
97 certification examination fees, professional development for  
98 teachers in career and technical education programs under this



99 section, student instructional support for programs that lead to  
100 qualifying industry certifications, \* \* \* to increase access to  
101 qualifying industry certifications or to purchase needed  
102 equipment. Any grants awarded under this section may not be used  
103 to supplant funds provided for the basic operation of the career  
104 and technical education programs.

105 (5) On or before October 1 of each year, the Department of  
106 Education, working in collaboration with the Office of Workforce  
107 Development and any other entities as necessary, shall submit a  
108 report to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of  
109 the House of Representatives, the Chairmen of the House and Senate  
110 Education Committees, the Chairman of the House Workforce  
111 Development Committee and the Chairman of the Senate Economic and  
112 Workforce Development Committee on the following:

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

116 (b) The number of students who earned a qualifying  
117 industry certification by certification.

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

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

122 (e) Aggregated demographic data on the students who  
123 earned a qualifying industry certification, including the



124 qualifying industry certifications earned by rural and urban  
125 students.

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

