

By: Representative Hines

To: Education;
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 408

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, IN
2 CONJUNCTION WITH THE BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE, THE STATE BOARD
3 OF NURSING AND THE MISSISSIPPI HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION, TO ESTABLISH
4 AND IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM KNOWN AS THE "DELTA MEDICAL APPRENTICESHIP
5 PROGRAM" (MS DMAP) FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN GRADES 9
6 THROUGH 12 IN SCHOOLS SITUATED IN COUNTIES OF THE MISSISSIPPI
7 DELTA; TO PROVIDE THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM
8 WILL BE TO PROVIDE CAREER PATHWAYS INTO THE HEALTH CARE AND
9 MEDICAL PROFESSION; TO REQUIRE THE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM TO BE
10 CONDUCTED IN CONJUNCTION WITH HEALTH CARE AND MEDICAL FACILITIES
11 IN THOSE DELTA COUNTIES EXPERIENCING CRITICAL SHORTAGES IN HEALTH
12 CARE PROFESSIONAL; TO PRESCRIBE THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR
13 PARTICIPATION IN THE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM; TO PRESCRIBE THE
14 COMPONENTS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM; TO
15 REQUIRE THE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM TO PROVIDE ACADEMIC AND
16 PRACTICAL APPLICATION INSTRUCTION DURING THE COURSE OF THE
17 PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE PARTICIPATING STUDENTS TO COMPLETE CERTAIN
18 TASKS AND RESEARCH PROJECTS; TO LIMIT PARTICIPATION IN THE
19 APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM TO MISSISSIPPI RESIDENTS IN GRADES 9
20 THROUGH 12 WHO ATTEND A PUBLIC SCHOOL; TO REQUIRE ELIGIBLE PERSONS
21 TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT
22 OF EDUCATION; TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT TO MAKE THE APPLICATIONS
23 AVAILABLE TO ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS BY A CERTAIN DATE AND TO
24 ESTABLISH THE DEADLINE FOR ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS; TO PROVIDE
25 AN INCENTIVE IN THE FORM OF A STIPEND FOR STUDENTS PARTICIPATING
26 IN THE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM; TO ESTABLISH THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA
27 MEDICAL APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM TRUST FUND IN THE STATE TREASURY TO
28 PROVIDE SUPPORT TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND THE BOARD OF MEDICAL
29 LICENSURE FOR START-UP COSTS AND COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH
30 IMPLEMENTING AND OPERATING THE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM; TO AMEND
31 SECTION 37-71-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO MAKE A MINOR
32 NONSUBSTANTIVE CHANGE; TO BRING FORWARD SECTIONS 37-71-9 and
33 31-71-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, FOR PURPOSES OF POSSIBLE
34 AMENDMENTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

35 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Legislature emphasizes the
36 importance of fostering high standards for educating the state's
37 students enrolled in and attending public schools by increasing
38 efforts to prepare these students for the pursuit of continued
39 educational success and the professional careers that are obtained
40 as a result; and

41 WHEREAS, with a nationally growing demand for health care
42 professionals, the Mississippi Legislature finds it incumbent upon
43 itself to take proper measures to reduce shortages in the health
44 care profession, as these shortages directly impact the medical
45 workforce and the availability of health care throughout our
46 state, particularly in the Mississippi Delta; and

47 WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Mississippi Legislature to
48 promote the educational accountability of public schools and the
49 students educated therein through the implementation of
50 informational, analytical and research-based programs of
51 instruction to heighten public school students' awareness and
52 interests in health care professions: NOW, THEREFORE,

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

54 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known and may be cited as the
55 "Mississippi Delta Medical Apprenticeship Program Act" (MS DMAP).

56 **SECTION 2.** As used in this act, the following terms shall
57 have the meanings ascribed in this section, unless context clearly
58 requires otherwise:



59 (a) "Apprenticeship program" means the Mississippi
60 Delta Medical Apprenticeship Program.

61 (b) "Counties of the Mississippi Delta" include,
62 Bolivar, Carroll, Coahoma, Desoto, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena,
63 Leflore, Panola, Quitman, Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tate,
64 Tunica, Warren, Washington and Yazoo Counties.

65 (c) "Department" means the State Department of
66 Education.

77 **SECTION 3.** (1) Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year,
78 the State Board of Education, in conjunction with the Board of
79 Medical Licensure, the State Board of Nursing and the Mississippi
80 Hospital Association, shall establish and implement a program
81 known as the "Mississippi Delta Medical Apprenticeship Program"
82 (MS DMAP) for public school students in Grades 9 through 12, the
83 purpose of which will be to create a pathway to develop a health

84 care professions pipeline within the underserved and
85 underrepresented populations in the eighteen (18) counties of the
86 Mississippi Delta, to increase availability and presence of
87 qualified health care professionals in those counties experiencing
88 a critical shortage of such professionals. The provisions of the
89 MS DMAP shall adhere to the requirements of the "Mississippi Learn
90 to Earn Act" for Extended Learning Opportunities as provided in
91 Sections 37-71-7, 37-71-9 and 31-71-11.

92 (2) The apprenticeship program established under subsection
93 (1) of this section for the introduction and training qualified
94 students for a potential career in the health care professions
95 must, at a minimum, be a full-year program of academic and
96 practical application instruction, during which time students must
97 be provided onsite hands-on instruction to increase the students'
98 preparation for a premedical or allied health curriculum and to
99 strengthen academic competitiveness. Depending on the area of
100 health expertise and the required skills and certifications to
101 qualify an individual for employment, the apprenticeship program
102 may extend beyond a single year of participation, as determined by
103 the State Board of Education, the participating school district
104 and the health care entity providing the instruction. The
105 lecture-based portions of instruction in the apprenticeship
106 program must be conducted by:

107 (a) Instructors with adequate certification in science
108 or mathematics, who are licensed by the State Department of
109 Education;

110 (b) Instructors who teach those subject areas at the
111 postsecondary level; or

112 (c) Licensed or certified health care professionals who
113 have the requisite number of years of experience and
114 qualifications equivalent to what is required of an individual
115 licensed by the State Department of Education as an expert citizen
116 under Section 37-3-2(6)(c).

117 (3) Eligibility for participation in the apprenticeship
118 program is limited to students who:

119 (a) Maintain a cumulative 2.25 grade point average on a
120 4.0 scale;

121 (b) Are recommended by their science or mathematics
122 teachers, or professional school counselor;

123 (c) Have a consistent record of attendance;

124 (d) Display positive attitudes, character and
125 citizenship;

126 (e) Express a desire to expand their knowledge of
127 health care and medicine:

128 (f) Resides in one (1) of the counties of the
129 Mississippi Delta, where a participating licensed medical facility
130 is located; and



131 (g) Present proof of having health insurance or
132 Medicaid.

133 (4) Before any student is accepted for participation under
134 the criteria of subsection (3), that student's parent, legal
135 guardian or custodian must submit written authorization agreeing
136 to the student's participation in the apprenticeship program.

137 (5) The MS DMAP must include, but not be limited to, the
138 following components:

139 (a) An orientation, which the parents are encouraged to
140 attend:

141 (b) ACT instruction and practice exams;

142 (c) Instructional interaction with licensed and/or
143 certified medical professionals;

144 (d) Presentations from licensed and/or certified
145 medical professionals:

146 (e) Health-related hands-on activities:

147 (f) CPR certification;

148 (g) ACT and certification examination registration as
149 needed: and

150 (h) A waiver of fees for the required certification
151 assessments

152 (6) Outside of the traditional scholastic year, the
153 apprenticeship program must consist of a full day of academic,
154 research or laboratory instruction beginning at 8:00 a.m. and
155 lasting until 3:00 p.m. daily on Monday through Friday of each



156 week for a minimum of four (4) weeks between the end date of a
157 scholastic year and the beginning of the immediately subsequent
158 scholastic year. During each week, two (2) days must be dedicated
159 to ACT and career certification preparation, and the remaining
160 three (3) days must be dedicated to health care career
161 preparation.

162 **SECTION 4.** Participation in the apprenticeship program must
163 be limited to students who reside in any of the counties of the
164 Mississippi Delta, as defined in Section 2 of this act, who are
165 entering Grades 9 through 12 in a public school, and who have
166 submitted to the State Department of Education a completed
167 application on the form designed and supplied by the department,
168 the Board of Medical Licensure, the State Board of Nursing and the
169 Mississippi Hospital Association. The department shall make
170 applications available to each school district on May 31 of each
171 year and shall establish the deadline for accepting applications.

172 **SECTION 5.** Students selected to participate in the
173 apprenticeship program, who successfully complete the requirements
174 of their chosen health care pathway prior to high school
175 graduation shall, upon enrollment at a public two-year or
176 four-year postsecondary educational institution within the State
177 of Mississippi and declaration of a health related major, as
178 verified by the institution's registrar, shall be eligible for a
179 reduced tuition rate, which the percent or dollar amount of such
180 reduction shall be determined by the respective institution of



181 enrollment, provided, however, that the reduction shall not be
182 less than thirty percent (30%) of the total cost of attendance.

183 **SECTION 6.** (1) There is established in the State Treasury a
184 fund to be known as the "Mississippi Delta Medical Apprenticeship
185 Program Trust Fund." The purpose of the fund is to provide
186 financial support to local school districts within the eligible
187 counties for start-up costs and costs associated with implementing
188 and operating the MS DMAP. The fund may consist of monies
189 obtained from grants from the federal government, funds made
190 available by the Legislature, and grants, gifts, devises and
191 donations from any public or private source. The State Board of
192 Education and the Board of Medical Licensure shall administer the
193 fund and may apply for any grants from the federal government or
194 private sources.

195 (2) The State Board of Education and the Board of Medical
196 Licensure, jointly, shall adopt rules and regulations necessary
197 for the implementation of this section. If sufficient funds are
198 available for this purpose, monies from the Mississippi Delta
199 Medical Apprenticeship Program Trust Fund must be allocated to
200 local school districts and participating licensed medical
201 facilities in accordance with the procedures established by the
202 State Board of Education and the Board of Medical Licensure.

203 **SECTION 7.** Section 37-71-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
204 amended as follows:

205 37-71-7. (1) For the 2021-2022 school term, the State Board
206 of Education shall promulgate a rule by December 31, 2020,
207 authorizing local school boards, in their discretion, to develop
208 an Extended Learning Opportunity to include alternative
209 educational opportunities available to students in Grade 9 through
210 Grade 12, which are provided through apprenticeships, internships
211 or pre-apprenticeships for elective course credit.

212 (2) Each local school board may adopt an Extended Learning
213 Opportunities policy to include alternative educational
214 opportunities for course credit that recognizes learning
215 opportunities outside of the traditional classroom through
216 apprenticeships, internships or pre-apprenticeships, and grants
217 elective credit for those alternative learning opportunities. If
218 adopted the policy shall:

219 (a) Provide for an application process for entities to
220 submit proposals for alternative educational opportunities that
221 will qualify for elective course credit;

222 (b) Define which entities are eligible to submit
223 applications for alternative educational opportunities, which such
224 entities shall include, but not be limited to:

225 (i) Nonprofit organizations;

226 (ii) Businesses with established locations in the
227 state;

228 (iii) Trade associations;

229 (iv) Parents of students involved in programs that
230 may otherwise qualify for alternative educational opportunities;

231 (v) Teachers involved in programs outside of the
232 traditional classroom; and

233 (vi) School personnel involved in programs outside
234 of the traditional classroom * * *;

235 (c) Provide for the criteria used to evaluate the
236 alternative educational opportunity;

237 (d) Describe any communication and collaboration needed
238 with local school districts to implement alternative educational
239 opportunities approved by the State Board of Education;

240 (e) Place requirements on the entity such as background
241 checks for key personnel and minimum accountability standards; and

242 (f) Provide a process for student credit transfer.

243 (3) The local school board is authorized to approve or deny
244 an application for an alternative educational opportunity. If an
245 application is approved by the school board, the application shall
246 be submitted to the State Board of Education for review as
247 provided in Section 37-71-11, prior to the implementation of the
248 program within the local school district.

249 (4) The State Department of Education shall have the
250 authority to audit approved alternative educational programs at
251 any time. If the audit results in findings that an approved
252 program is not meeting the provisions of this chapter or the



253 policy outlined in subsection (2) of this section, then the local
254 school board shall disqualify the program immediately.

255 **SECTION 8.** Section 37-71-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
256 brought forward as follows:

257 37-71-9. (1) (a) Following the adoption of the rule
258 required in Section 37-71-7, the department shall accept
259 applications from local school districts for the implementation of
260 alternative courses, programs and opportunities or apprenticeship
261 programs. The department shall require an application for each
262 alternative course, program or opportunity or apprenticeship
263 program approved by a local school board to be implemented in its
264 school district.

265 (b) Upon receipt of an application, the department
266 shall have ninety (90) days to approve or deny the application.
267 Any denied application shall be returned to the submitting local
268 school board and shall include an explanation of the reasons for
269 denial of the application.

270 (2) The State Department of Education shall provide an
271 annual report detailing the progress that has been made in each
272 school district in providing alternative courses, programs and
273 opportunities or apprenticeships. The report shall be provided to
274 the Chairmen of the Senate and House Education Committees no later
275 than December 1 of each year, beginning December 1, 2021. The
276 report also shall be provided to the other members of the



277 Legislature upon request and posted on the department's website
278 for the general public to view.

279 **SECTION 9.** Section 37-71-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
280 brought forward as follows:

281 37-71-11. (1) Beginning with July 1, 2020, a licensing
282 authority shall grant a license to any student applicant who
283 participates in an alternative learning course, program or
284 opportunity or apprenticeship program, and who meets the following
285 criteria:

286 (a) Completed an apprenticeship in the licensed
287 occupation or profession;

288 (b) Attained a satisfactory industry certification
289 score on the WorkKeys assessment, if such assessment is a required
290 component of the alternative course or apprenticeship;

291 (c) Passed an examination, if one is deemed to be
292 necessary by the licensing authority; and

293 (d) Paid any fees deemed necessary by the licensing
294 authority.

295 (2) Licensing authorities shall establish a passing score
296 for their respective examinations which shall not exceed the
297 passing score that is required under the standard licensing
298 processes. If the relevant licensing authority or provision of
299 law does not require an examination for the standard licensing
300 process for an occupation, no examination may be required for
301 applicants who complete an apprenticeship in that occupation.



302 (3) Licensing authorities shall establish a licensing fee,
303 which shall not exceed the licensing fee that is required under
304 the standard licensing processes. If the relevant licensing
305 authority or state does not require a fee for the standard
306 licensing process for an occupation, no fee can be required for
307 applicants who complete an apprenticeship in that occupation.

312 (5) Licensing authorities shall adopt necessary rules for
313 the implementation of this section.

314 **SECTION 10.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
315 and after July 1, 2025.

