

By: Representative Karriem

To: Workforce Development;
Appropriations A

HOUSE BILL NO. 705

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A YOUTH EMPLOYMENT GRANT PROGRAM TO BE
2 ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY FOR THE
3 PURPOSE OF ASSISTING MUNICIPALITIES WITH THE COSTS OF PROVIDING
4 EMPLOYMENT FOR YOUTH; TO PROVIDE THAT IN ORDER FOR A MUNICIPALITY
5 TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A GRANT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT, THE
6 MUNICIPALITY MUST PRESENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
7 A PLAN FOR EMPLOYING YOUTH IN THE MUNICIPALITY AND MUST AGREE TO
8 PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS EQUAL TO TWENTY PERCENT OF THE AMOUNT OF
9 THE GRANT; TO CREATE IN THE STATE TREASURY A SPECIAL FUND TO BE
10 KNOWN AS THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT GRANT PROGRAM FUND; TO PROVIDE THAT
11 THE FUND WILL CONSIST OF MONIES APPROPRIATED BY THE LEGISLATURE
12 FOR FUNDING THE PROGRAM, AND ANY OTHER MONIES THAT THE LEGISLATURE
13 MAY DESIGNATE FOR DEPOSIT INTO THE FUND; TO PROVIDE THAT MONIES IN
14 THE FUND MAY BE EXPENDED UPON LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION FOR MAKING
15 GRANTS TO MUNICIPALITIES FOR THE PURPOSES SPECIFIED IN THIS ACT;
16 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

18 **SECTION 1.** (1) Subject to appropriation by the Legislature,
19 there is established a Youth Employment Grant Program to be
20 administered by the Mississippi Department of Employment Security
21 for the purpose of assisting municipalities with offering
22 meaningful full-time or productive work for youth. Eligibility
23 requirements for youth participants of the program are as follows:

24 (a) The youth must be between the ages of 16-24;



25 (b) The youth must be in school, either high school or
26 college, or have agreed to enroll for a high school diploma or its
27 equivalency or have agreed to enroll in college; and

28 (c) The youth must be a resident of the municipality.

29 As used under this section, municipalities shall mean cities,
30 towns and villages as described under Section 21-1-1.

31 (2) In administering the provisions of this act, the
32 Department of Employment Security shall have the following powers
33 and duties:

34 (a) To supervise the use of all grant funds made to
35 municipalities under this act for employing youth;

36 (b) To review and certify all work projects for which
37 grants are made to municipalities under this act for employing
38 youth;

39 (c) To requisition monies in the Youth Employment Grant
40 Fund and make grants from those monies to municipalities on a
41 project-by-project basis;

42 (d) To maintain an accurate record of all grants made
43 to municipalities under this act for employing youth, place of
44 employment for the youth, duties related to the employment for the
45 youth and the costs for each work project; and

46 (e) To adopt and promulgate such rules and regulations
47 as may be necessary or desirable for the purpose of implementing
48 the provisions of this act.



49 (3) In order for a municipality to be eligible for a grant
50 under the provisions of this act, the municipality must meet the
51 following conditions:

52 (a) (i) The governing authorities of the municipality
53 must present to the Department of Employment Security a plan for
54 employing youth. The plan must identify the proposed work project
55 or projects for youth and what municipal department the youth
56 will work for and the prescribed duties for the youth; and

57 (ii) The plan prescribed in subparagraph (i) must
58 provide youth a combination of work experience and on-the-job
59 training that includes a minimum of ten percent (10%) of a youth's
60 time that will enhance basic life skills that include, but are not
61 limited to, education, communication skills, leadership
62 development, positive work ethic, training and safety; and

63 (b) The governing authorities of the municipality must
64 agree to provide matching funds equal to twenty percent (20%) of
65 the amount of the grant.

66 (4) There is created in the State Treasury a special fund to
67 be designated as the Youth Employment Program Fund. The fund
68 shall consist of monies appropriated by the Legislature for
69 funding the program, and any other monies that the Legislature may
70 designate for deposit into the fund. Monies in the fund may be
71 expended upon legislative appropriation for making grants to
72 municipalities for the purposes specified in this act. Unexpended
73 amounts remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall



74 not lapse into the State General Fund, and any interest earned on
75 amounts in the fund shall be deposited to the credit of the fund.

76 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
77 and after July 1, 2025.

