

By: Representative Shanks

To: Education

## HOUSE BILL NO. 962

1 AN ACT TO REENACT SECTIONS 37-69-1 THROUGH 37-69-7,  
2 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH ARE THE ENERGY ACADEMY ACT THAT  
3 AUTHORIZES THE VICKSBURG-WARREN AND CLAIBORNE COUNTY SCHOOL  
4 DISTRICTS TO PARTNER WITH A NUCLEAR FACILITY, WARREN COUNTY AND  
5 THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENERGY HIGH  
6 SCHOOL ACADEMY; TO CREATE NEW SECTION 37-69-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
7 1972, TO CODIFY AND EXTEND THE DATE OF THE REPEALER ON THE ENERGY  
8 ACADEMY ACT; TO AMEND SECTION 5, CHAPTER 482, LAWS OF 2019, AS  
9 AMENDED BY SECTION 5, CHAPTER 382, LAWS OF 2022, TO REMOVE THE  
10 REPEALER LANGUAGE ON THE ENERGY ACADEMY ACT FROM THE EFFECTIVE  
11 DATE SECTION OF THE ENABLING LEGISLATION; AND FOR RELATED  
12 PURPOSES.

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

14 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-69-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
15 reenacted as follows:

16 37-69-1. This chapter shall be known as "The Energy Academy  
17 Act."

18 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-69-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
19 reenacted as follows:

20 37-69-3. **Intent.** The intent of the Legislature is to  
21 provide an opportunity for motivated students to participate in a  
22 curriculum that will prepare them for a career of employment in  
23 the energy industry in their home state.



24       **SECTION 3.** Section 37-69-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
25 reenacted as follows:

26       37-69-5. **Definitions.** For purposes of this chapter:

27           (a) "The Board of Trustees" means the Board of Trustees  
28 of the Vicksburg-Warren School District.

29           (b) "The Board of Education" means the Claiborne County  
30 Board of Education.

31           (c) "Nuclear Facility" means any nuclear generating  
32 plant in the State of Mississippi.

33           (d) "Energy Academy" means an energy high school  
34 created under this chapter.

35           (e) "Partnership Council" means the Energy High School  
36 Academy Partnership Council.

37           (f) "MDA" means the Mississippi Development Authority.

38       **SECTION 4.** Section 37-69-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
39 reenacted as follows:

40       37-69-7. (1) The Board of Trustees of the Vicksburg-Warren  
41 School District and the Claiborne County Board of Education are  
42 authorized to make application to the Mississippi Development  
43 Authority for the approval of entering into a Memorandum of  
44 Understanding with a nuclear facility and Warren County and the  
45 State of Mississippi for the establishment of a partnership for  
46 the operation of an Energy High School Academy. The purpose of  
47 the Energy High School Academy shall be to provide qualified  
48 students attending school in Warren and/or Claiborne County in the



49 eighth through twelfth grade with career education, potential  
50 student internships and continuing education for careers in the  
51 energy industry.

52 (2) (a) The Energy High School Academy shall be under the  
53 administrative direction of the Energy High School Academy  
54 Partnership Council (Partnership Council) consisting of one (1)  
55 member from each of the following entities:

56 (i) The Chief Executive Officer of an enterprise  
57 engaged in the generation of nuclear energy located in Claiborne  
58 County, or his designee, who shall serve for four (4) years;

59 (ii) The superintendent of the Vicksburg-Warren  
60 School District, who shall serve for four (4) years;

61 (iii) The superintendent of the Claiborne County  
62 School District, who shall serve for four (4) years;

63 (iv) A designee of the Mississippi Development  
64 Authority, appointed by the executive director of MDA, and who may  
65 be the executive director, who shall serve three (3) years;

66 (v) A member of the Board of Trustees of the  
67 Vicksburg-Warren School District, appointed by the Vicksburg Mayor  
68 and Board of Alderman, who shall serve two (2) years;

69 (vi) A member of the Claiborne County Board of  
70 Education, appointed by the Claiborne County Board of Supervisors,  
71 who shall serve two (2) years;

72 (vii) A member of the Claiborne County Chamber of  
73 Commerce, appointed by the chairman of the board of directors, who



may appoint himself or herself, and who shall serve one (1) year;  
and

(viii) A member of the Vicksburg Chamber of  
Commerce, appointed by the chairman of the board of directors, who  
may appoint himself or herself, and who shall serve one (1) year.

(b) Members of the Partnership Council shall serve  
staggered terms, as prescribed in paragraph (a) of this  
subsection, commencing with the initial appointments made in 2019,  
and shall thereafter, upon the expiration of the initial term, the  
succeeding appointees shall serve a term of four (4) years.

Members of the council may be reappointed to the council by the  
original appointing authority without limitation on the number of  
terms served. In the event of a vacancy on the council, the  
original appointing authority shall appoint a replacement to  
complete the unexpired term of the member creating the vacancy.

(c) The Partnership Council shall meet on or before  
August 1, 2019, and organize for business, elect officers and  
adopt necessary regulations for the operation of the Energy High  
School Academy. Meetings shall be held upon the call of the  
chairman.

(3) The Energy High School Academy Partnership Council shall  
promulgate administrative rules and regulations to prescribe the  
criteria to be used in the establishment of the Energy High School  
Academy, which shall include student qualifications, application  
requirements and curriculum components.



99           (4)   (a)   There is established in the State Treasury a fund  
100 to be known as the "Energy High School Academy Fund." The purpose  
101 of the fund is to provide necessary financial support to  
102 Vicksburg-Warren/Claiborne County School Districts and the  
103 Mississippi Development Authority for start-up costs and costs  
104 associated with implementing and operating the Energy Academy  
105 established under this section. The fund may consist of monies  
106 obtained from grants from any public or private source. The  
107 Mississippi Development Authority shall administer the fund  
108 pursuant to appropriation by the Legislature, and may apply for  
109 any grants from the federal government or private sources.

110           (b)   The Mississippi Development Authority shall prepare  
111 a three-year budget proposal for the operation of the Energy  
112 Academy which shall include staff and liaison salary estimates,  
113 equipment and facility costs and job demand estimates. This  
114 budget shall be submitted to the Governor, the Legislative Budget  
115 Office and the Partnership Council and updated annually.

116           **SECTION 5.** The following shall be codified as Section  
117 37-69-9, Mississippi Code of 1972:

118           37-69-9. Sections 37-69-1 through 37-69-9 shall stand  
119 repealed on July 1, 2028.

120           **SECTION 6.** Section 5, Chapter 482, Laws of 2019, as amended  
121 by Section 5, Chapter 382, Laws of 2022, is amended as follows:

122           Section 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
123 and after July 1, 2019 \* \* \*.



124           **SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
125 and after July 1, 2025.

