

By: Representative Roberson

To: Education; Workforce
Development

HOUSE BILL NO. 1621
(As Passed the House)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-153-15, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE THAT CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION GRANT FUNDS MAY BE
3 USED TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED BY
4 SCHOOL DISTRICTS THAT LEAD TO QUALIFYING INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS;
5 TO REMOVE THE PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF SUCH GRANT FUNDS TO
6 SUPPLANT FUNDS FOR THE BASIC OPERATION OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL
7 EDUCATION PROGRAMS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-153-15, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
10 amended as follows:

11 37-153-15. (1) As used in this article:

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

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



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

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

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

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

(3) Beginning in fiscal year 2019-2020 and subject to available funding, the Department of Education shall pay a career and technical education incentive grant to the public school for each student enrolled in the public school who earns a qualifying industry certification. The amount per student for the career and technical education incentive grant shall be Six Hundred Dollars (\$600.00). If the statewide sum of the career and technical education incentive grants awarded pursuant to this section



exceeds the amount of available funds appropriated for the grants, the grants per student shall be reduced proportionately to cover all eligible grants under this section. Any costs accrued during one (1) fiscal year may be claimed and reimbursed in the following fiscal year.

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

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



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

71 (b) The number of students who earned a qualifying
72 industry certification by certification.

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

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

77 (e) Aggregated demographic data on the students who
78 earned a qualifying industry certification, including the
79 qualifying industry certifications earned by rural and urban
80 students.

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

