

By: Senator(s) DeBar

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2155

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 5, CHAPTER 482, LAWS OF 2019, AS
 2 AMENDED BY SECTION 5, CHAPTER 382, LAWS OF 2022, TO EXTEND THE
 3 DATE OF REPEAL ON SECTIONS 37-69-1, 37-69-3, 37-69-5 AND 37-69-7,
 4 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH CONSTITUTE THE ENERGY ACADEMY ACT,
 5 WHICH AUTHORIZES THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VICKSBURG-WARREN
 6 SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE CLAIBORNE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION TO
 7 APPLY TO THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE APPROVAL OF
 8 ENTERING INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH A NUCLEAR
 9 FACILITY AND WARREN COUNTY AND THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI FOR THE
 10 ESTABLISHMENT OF A PARTNERSHIP FOR THE OPERATION OF AN ENERGY HIGH
 11 SCHOOL ACADEMY, AND WHICH PRESCRIBES THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ENERGY
 12 HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMY PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL TO ADMINISTER THE ACADEMY;
 13 TO BRING FORWARD SECTIONS 37-69-1, 37-69-3, 37-69-5 AND 37-69-7,
 14 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, FOR THE PURPOSE OF POSSIBLE AMENDMENT;
 15 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

17 **SECTION 1.** Section 5, Chapter 482, Laws of 2019, as amended
 18 by Section 5, Chapter 382, Laws of 2022, is amended as follows:

19 Section 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from
 20 and after July 1, 2019, and shall stand repealed from and after
 21 July 1, * * * 2029.

22 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-69-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
 23 brought forward as follows:



24 37-69-1. This chapter shall be known as "The Energy Academy
25 Act."

26 **SECTION 3.** Section 37-69-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
27 brought forward as follows:

28 37-69-3. **Intent.** The intent of the Legislature is to
29 provide an opportunity for motivated students to participate in a
30 curriculum that will prepare them for a career of employment in
31 the energy industry in their home state.

32 **SECTION 4.** Section 37-69-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
33 brought forward as follows:

34 37-69-5. **Definitions.** For purposes of this chapter:

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

37 (b) "The Board of Education" means the Claiborne County
38 Board of Education.

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

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

43 (e) "Partnership Council" means the Energy High School
44 Academy Partnership Council.

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

46 **SECTION 5.** Section 37-69-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
47 brought forward as follows:



48 37-69-7. (1) The Board of Trustees * * * and the * * *
49 Board of Education are authorized to make application to the
50 Mississippi Development Authority for the approval of entering
51 into a Memorandum of Understanding with a nuclear facility and
52 Warren County and the State of Mississippi for the establishment
53 of a partnership for the operation of an Energy High School
54 Academy. The purpose of the Energy High School Academy shall be
55 to provide qualified students attending school in Warren and/or
56 Claiborne County in the eighth through twelfth grade with career
57 education, potential student internships and continuing education
58 for careers in the energy industry.

59 (2) (a) The Energy High School Academy shall be under the
60 administrative direction of the Energy High School Academy
61 Partnership Council (Partnership Council) consisting of one (1)
62 member from each of the following entities:

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

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

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

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



73 (v) A member of the Board of Trustees * * *,
74 appointed by the Vicksburg Mayor and Board of * * * Aldermen, who
75 shall serve two (2) years;

76 (vi) A member of the * * * Board of Education,
77 appointed by the Claiborne County Board of Supervisors, who shall
78 serve two (2) years;

79 (vii) A member of the Claiborne County Chamber of
80 Commerce, appointed by the chairman of the board of directors, who
81 may appoint himself or herself, and who shall serve one (1) year;
82 and

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

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

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

96 (c) The Partnership Council shall meet on or before
97 August 1, 2019, and organize for business, elect officers and



98 adopt necessary regulations for the operation of the Energy High
99 School Academy. Meetings shall be held upon the call of the
100 chairman.

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

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

117 (b) The Mississippi Development Authority shall prepare
118 a three-year budget proposal for the operation of the Energy
119 Academy which shall include staff and liaison salary estimates,
120 equipment and facility costs and job demand estimates. This
121 budget shall be submitted to the Governor, the Legislative Budget
122 Office and the Partnership Council and updated annually.



123 **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
124 and after June 30, 2025.

