

By: Senator(s) DeBar

To: Education

## SENATE BILL NO. 2177

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-31-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO PROVIDE THAT PAYMENTS OUT OF STATE APPROPRIATIONS TO SCHOOL  
3 DISTRICTS FOR EXTENDED CONTRACTS FOR VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE  
4 EDUCATION SERVICES AND OTHER RELATED VOCATIONAL EDUCATION SERVICES  
5 CONTRIBUTING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SHALL BE AVAILABLE ONLY TO  
6 THOSE HIGH SCHOOLS WHOSE TEACHERS OF VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS ARE  
7 RESPONSIBLE FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS OF INSTRUCTION DURING THOSE DAYS  
8 OR WEEKS BETWEEN ACADEMIC YEARS OR, FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS HAVING  
9 ADOPTED THE EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR, BETWEEN ACADEMIC  
10 QUARTERS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-31-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
13 amended as follows:

14 37-31-13. (1) Any appropriation that may be made under the  
15 provisions of Sections 37-31-1 through 37-31-15 shall be used by  
16 the board for the promotion of vocational education as provided  
17 for in the "Smith-Hughes Act" and for the purpose set forth in  
18 Sections 37-31-1 through 37-31-15. The state appropriation shall  
19 not be used for payments to high schools which are now receiving  
20 other state funds, except in lieu of not more than one-half (1/2)  
21 the amount that may be due such high schools from federal funds.  
22 Only such portion of the state appropriation shall be used as may



23 be absolutely necessary to carry out the provisions of Sections  
24 37-31-1 through 37-31-15, and to meet the federal requirements.  
25 Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the state  
26 appropriation shall not be used for payments to high schools for  
27 conducting vocational programs for more than ten (10) months in  
28 any school year, and only funds other than total funding formula  
29 funds may be expended for such purpose.

30 (2) Subject to annual approval by the State Board of  
31 Education, extended contracts for vocational agriculture education  
32 services and other related vocational education services which  
33 contribute to economic development may be conducted by local  
34 school districts, and state appropriations may be used for  
35 payments to school districts providing such services. The board  
36 of trustees of each school district shall determine whether any  
37 proposed services contribute to the economic development of the  
38 area. Local districts may apply to the Division of Vocational and  
39 Technical Education of the State Department of Education for any  
40 state funds available for these extended contracts. The State  
41 Board of Education shall establish the application process and the  
42 selection criteria for this program. The number of state-funded  
43 extended contracts approved by the State Board of Education will  
44 be determined by the availability of funds specified for this  
45 purpose. The State Board of Education's decision shall be final.  
46 Payments under this subsection shall only be available to those  
47 high schools whose teachers of vocational programs are responsible



for the following programs of instruction during those \* \* \* days  
or weeks between academic years or, for school districts having  
adopted the extended school year calendar, between academic  
quarters: (a) supervision and instruction of students in  
agricultural or other vocational experience programs; (b) group  
and individual instruction of farmers and agribusinessmen; (c)  
supervision of student members of youth groups who are involved in  
leadership training or other activity required by state or federal  
law; or (d) any program of vocational agriculture or other  
vocational-related services established by the Division of  
Vocational and Technical Education of the State Department of  
Education that contribute to the economic development of the  
geographic area.

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

