

By: Senator(s) Burton

To: Universities and
Colleges; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2655

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE MISSISSIPPI SKILL STANDARDS BOARD AS
2 AN ADVISORY BOARD ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF
3 INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED SKILL STANDARDS FOR ALL MAJOR SKILLED
4 OCCUPATIONS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** (1) The Mississippi Skill Standards Board is
7 hereby created as an advisory board to the Governor, the
8 Legislature and the state workforce development system on the
9 development of a statewide system of industry-defined,
10 industry-recognized skill standards and credentials for all major
11 skilled occupations that:

12 (a) Provide strong employment and earnings
13 opportunities in this state; and

14 (b) Are nationally recognized; and

15 (c) Require less than a baccalaureate degree.

16 (2) The board shall be composed of thirteen (13) members
17 appointed by the Governor. The term of each board member shall
18 run concurrent with the term of the Governor. The board consists
19 of the following members:

20 (a) Eight (8) members representing business, two (2) of
21 whom must be from business entities that employ fewer than fifty
22 (50) employees, one (1) each from the four-sector clusters as
23 defined by the Mississippi Technology Alliance;

24 (b) Two (2) members representing workers;

25 (c) One (1) member representing secondary education;

26 (d) One (1) member representing two-year postsecondary
27 education; and



28 (e) One (1) member representing four-year public
29 postsecondary education.

30 (3) The Governor shall appoint the presiding officer of the
31 board from the members representing business.

32 (4) The Mississippi Skill Standards Board shall:

33 (a) Validate nationally established skill standards to
34 guide curriculum development, training, assessment and
35 certification of workforce skills;

36 (b) Convene industry groups to develop skill standards
37 and certification procedures for industries and occupations in
38 which standards have not been established or adopted and recognize
39 the skill standards and certification procedures;

40 (c) Review standards developed by other states and
41 nations and enter into agreements for mutual recognition of
42 credentials to enhance portability of skills;

43 (d) Promote, in collaboration with the secondary and
44 postsecondary entities, the use of standards and credentials among
45 employers; and

46 (e) Develop a memorandum of understanding by and
47 between the workforce and education entities for the effective
48 development, implementation, operations and outcomes of the skills
49 standards effort.

50 (5) The board shall meet at the call of the presiding
51 officer as often as necessary to accomplish its work, but meet a
52 minimum of once each quarter in a fiscal year.

53 (6) A member of the board is not entitled to compensation
54 for service on the board but is entitled to reimbursement for
55 reasonable expenses incurred in performing board duties.

56 (7) The State Board for Community and Junior Colleges shall
57 provide staff support for the board as necessary.

58 (8) The Skill Standards Board shall report periodically to
59 the Governor and shall provide annual reports to the Governor, the
60 Legislature and the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges.



61 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
62 and after July 1, 2002.

