

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.

