

By: Representatives Brown, Mayo

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 834
(As Passed the House)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-3-99, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 AUTHORIZE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP A PILOT PROGRAM
3 TO REDESIGN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN MISSISSIPPI TO FUNCTION AS
4 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CENTERS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-3-99, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 37-3-99. (1) The State Department of Education shall design
9 curriculum choices within the current requirements for a high
10 school diploma for students who are interested in direct entry
11 into the workforce immediately following high school graduation.
12 It is the intent of the Legislature that the curriculum for this
13 program be rigorous, meeting the requirements based on research
14 outlining the skills needed for entry into the workforce. The
15 program shall comply with the federal No Child Left Behind Act.
16 The department shall design the program for entering ninth
17 graders * * *. The department shall report to the Legislature on
18 January 1, 2007, on its plan for the program. Students who choose
19 the curriculum under the program will receive a standard diploma.

20 The State Board of Education shall develop and pilot a
21 program to redesign secondary schools in Mississippi to function
22 not only as curriculum and educational entities but also as
23 workforce development centers. Contingent upon appropriations,
24 the State Board of Education shall pilot a minimum of fifteen (15)
25 sites to be selected through a process developed by the State
26 Board of Education and to be implemented during the 2007-2008
27 school year.

28 (2) The pilot program created under subsection (1) of this
29 section shall require the funding of one (1) school guidance
30 counselor per every five hundred (500) students in average daily
31 attendance in the school.

32 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
33 and after July 1, 2007.