

By: Representatives White, Scoggin, Foster,
Faulkner, Stamps

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1006
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO ENACT THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) WORKFORCE
2 DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION ACT; TO STATE LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND
3 INTENT; TO ESTABLISH THE ACCELERATE MISSISSIPPI WORKFORCE
4 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM; TO OUTLINE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE APPLICATION
5 AND FOR THE GRANT AWARDS; TO ESTABLISH THE MISSISSIPPI HEALTH
6 SCIENCES TRAINING INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE
7 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE BY
8 OCTOBER 1 OF EACH YEAR; TO REQUIRE THE OFFICE OF WORKFORCE
9 DEVELOPMENT TO CERTIFY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND
10 ADMINISTRATION THAT EACH EXPENDITURE APPROPRIATED TO THE OFFICE IS
11 IN COMPLIANCE WITH UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
12 CRITERIA REGARDING THE USE OF MONIES FROM THE STATE CORONAVIRUS
13 STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

15 **SECTION 1.** The provisions of this act shall be known and may
16 be cited as the "American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Workforce
17 Development and Retention Act." Under this act, the Legislature
18 creates the Accelerate Mississippi Workforce Development Program
19 and the Mississippi Health Sciences Training Infrastructure Grant
20 Program.

21 **SECTION 2.** (1) The Mississippi Legislature finds the
22 following:



23 (a) The public health crisis related to COVID-19
24 resulted in a general disruption in the Mississippi economy and
25 workforce, particularly in the healthcare industry;

26 (b) Workforce shortages exist in a number of high-wage,
27 high-demand Mississippi industries, including, but not limited to,
28 the field of nursing; and

29 (c) The availability of unprecedented federal funding
30 to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the workforce and economy
31 has created a unique opportunity for the Office of Workforce
32 Development, working with community colleges, institutions of
33 higher learning, employers, and others, to provide education and
34 training for Mississippians seeking employment in healthcare and
35 other fields.

36 (2) Therefore, the intent of the Mississippi Legislature is:

37 (a) To provide funding for outreach and other efforts
38 to connect citizens seeking employment in nursing and other
39 high-wage, high-demand fields with the education and training
40 required to obtain necessary skills for relevant employment in the
41 state;

42 (b) To provide funding for new and increased capacity
43 in new and existing relevant workforce development and training
44 programs, particularly programs related to nursing and healthcare,
45 to include any required equipment or supplies, at community and
46 junior colleges and institutions of higher learning across the
47 state; and



48 (c) To gauge the effectiveness of these programs by
49 gathering data related to participation and wage and employment
50 outcomes in order to replicate successful efforts in future
51 workforce development programs.

52 **SECTION 3.** As used in this act, the following words have the
53 meanings ascribed unless the context requires otherwise:

54 (a) "ARPA" means the federal American Rescue Plan Act
55 of 2021 (Public Law No. 117-2).

56 (b) "COVID-19" means the Coronavirus Disease 2019.

57 (c) "Federal COVID-19 Relief Funds" means funds
58 allocated to the State of Mississippi from the Coronavirus State
59 Fiscal Recovery Fund in Section 9901 of ARPA.

60 (d) "Grant program" means the workforce development and
61 training programs administered under this act using federal
62 COVID-19 relief funds.

63 (e) "Office" means the Office of Workforce Development
64 established in Section 37-153-7.

65 **SECTION 4.** (1) There is established the Accelerate
66 Mississippi Workforce Development Program, which shall be directed
67 by the office for the purpose of providing education and training
68 to citizens seeking employment in high-wage, high-demand
69 industries in the state, including, but not limited to, the
70 nursing and healthcare fields, which were impacted by the
71 disruption to the economy and workforce caused by COVID-19. This
72 program shall be subject to the availability of funds appropriated



73 by the Legislature using Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds
74 made available under ARPA or any other funds appropriated by the
75 Legislature.

76 (2) As used in this section, the following words have the
77 meanings ascribed unless the context requires otherwise:

78 (a) "Recipient" means a community college, institution
79 of higher learning, or trainee recipient of grant funding under
80 this section.

81 (b) "Trainee" means an individual receiving training or
82 other services through programs under this act with the goal of
83 becoming employed in a high-wage, high-demand industry.

84 (c) "High-wage, high-demand industry" means those
85 industries paying above Mississippi's median annual income and
86 prioritized by the office and the four (4) local workforce areas.

87 (d) "Eligible expenses" means a cost incurred by a
88 recipient, pursuant to this act, to include:

89 (i) Necessary equipment or other supplies;

90 (ii) Curricula or other academic or training
91 materials;

92 (iii) Remote learning or other classroom
93 technology;

94 (iv) Stipends for teaching staff or faculty for
95 workforce development programs;

96 (v) Trainee support, including tuition expenses
97 and childcare or transportation assistance;



- 98 (vi) Coaching or mentoring services;
99 (vii) Job placement services;
100 (viii) Apprenticeship programs; and
101 (ix) Recruitment programs.

102 (3) The Department of Employment Security shall serve as
103 fiscal agent in administering the funds.

104 (4) Subject to appropriation by the Legislature, allocations
105 to recipients shall be awarded by the office through an
106 application process, which shall require the applicant to provide:

107 (a) A detailed explanation of the program the applicant
108 intends to use awarded funds to create or expand, including:

109 (i) A description of the high-wage, high-demand
110 field or workforce shortage area the program is intended to
111 address;

112 (ii) The number of trainees who will be served by
113 the program; and

114 (iii) The average wage rate for trainees receiving
115 employment after completing the program;

116 (b) A proposed budget on how awarded funds will be
117 expended, including a plan to consistently report expenditures to
118 the office throughout the funding commitment;

119 (c) A plan to provide data on participation and
120 outcomes of the program, including a plan to report outcomes to
121 the office throughout the funding commitment; and



122 (d) Other relevant information as determined
123 appropriate by the office.

124 (5) Applicants agreeing to commit a portion of their federal
125 COVID-19 relief funds, if they received federal COVID-19 relief
126 funds directly, or other state, federal or private funds as
127 supplemental matching funds to offset the total cost of the
128 approved program will be prioritized for approval.

129 (6) The office shall:

130 (a) Inform each recipient of its portion of the funds
131 appropriated to the grant program;

132 (b) Develop regulations and procedures to govern the
133 administration of the grant program;

134 (c) Prioritize high-wage, high-skill industries,
135 including, but not limited to, nursing jobs or other jobs within
136 the healthcare field; and

137 (d) Coordinate with the Department of Employment
138 Security to share information to identify individuals who were
139 furloughed, unemployed, underemployed or otherwise displaced due
140 to COVID-19.

141 (7) The office may use a maximum of two percent (2%) of
142 funds allocated for this act for the administration of the grant
143 program, to the extent permissible under federal law.

144 **SECTION 5.** (1) There is established the Mississippi Health
145 Sciences Training Infrastructure Grant Program, the purpose of
146 which is to provide a reimbursable grant for primary care health



147 sciences training infrastructure at any osteopathic medical school
148 in Mississippi that is accredited by the Commission on Osteopathic
149 College Accreditation (COCA) of the American Osteopathic
150 Association (AOA). This program shall be subject to the
151 availability of funds appropriated by the Legislature using
152 Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds made available under ARPA
153 or any other funds appropriated by the Legislature.

154 (2) As used in this section, the following words have the
155 meanings ascribed unless the context requires otherwise:

156 (a) "Applicant" means any osteopathic medical school in
157 Mississippi that is accredited by the Commission on Osteopathic
158 College Accreditation (COCA) of the American Osteopathic
159 Association (AOA).

160 (b) "Health sciences training infrastructure" means any
161 infrastructure that is eligible under ARPA that assists with the
162 training of health sciences students to increase their interest
163 and encourage their pursuit of careers in primary care.

164 (3) On or before July 1, 2022, the office shall promulgate
165 rules and regulations necessary to administer the Mississippi
166 Health Sciences Training Infrastructure Grant Program prescribed
167 under this section, including application procedures and
168 deadlines. The Department of Finance and Administration, Bureau
169 of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management, is authorized
170 and directed to advise the office regarding all such rules and
171 regulations.



172 (4) The office shall receive applications submitted by the
173 applicants, which shall include, but not be limited to, the
174 following:

175 (a) A detailed description and the cost of the health
176 sciences training infrastructure requested;

177 (b) The number of students currently trained at the
178 applicant's school that pursue graduate medical education in
179 primary care;

180 (c) A certification that the health sciences training
181 infrastructure meets the guidelines of ARPA and its implementing
182 guidelines, guidance, rules, regulations and other criteria, as
183 may be amended or supplemented from time to time, by the United
184 States Department of the Treasury; and all applicable guidance
185 issued by the department; and

186 (d) Any additional requirements set by the office.

187 (5) Applications shall be reviewed and scored by the office.
188 The office shall certify that each application submitted is an
189 allowable expense as defined in ARPA and all applicable guidance
190 issued by the department. The Department of Finance and
191 Administration, Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property
192 Management, is authorized and directed to advise the office as to
193 the estimated cost and eligibility of the projects. The office
194 shall award the grants to the applicants based on what projects
195 the office determines has the most significant impact on
196 increasing student access to primary care training opportunities.



197 A grant agreement shall be executed between the applicant and the
198 office. All final awards will be determined at the discretion of
199 the executive director of the office. Funds shall be made
200 available to an applicant upon the execution of a grant agreement
201 between the office and the approved applicants. The office shall
202 provide these funds to the applicants on a reimbursable basis
203 after receiving support for expenses and determining that they
204 meet the grant award criteria.

205 (6) The applicant may be required to repay the State of
206 Mississippi for any grant funds awarded not consistent with the
207 guidelines of ARPA and its implementing guidelines, guidance,
208 rules, regulations and other criteria, as may be amended or
209 supplemented from time to time, by the United States Department of
210 the Treasury, and all applicable guidance issued by the office.

211 **SECTION 6.** The office shall provide a comprehensive report
212 on the use and effectiveness of funds distributed under the grant
213 programs created in this act, to include, if applicable, wage data
214 and employment outcomes for trainees, to the Governor, Lieutenant
215 Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chairs of the
216 Senate and House Appropriations Committees, Chair of the Senate
217 Economic and Workforce Development Committee, and Chair of the
218 House Workforce Development Committee by October 1 each year of
219 the existence of the program. The report shall also contain, if
220 applicable, the submitted applications, the score of the
221 applications, the amount of grant funds awarded to each applicant,



222 the amount of grant funds expended by each applicant, the status
223 of the training infrastructure, the number of students currently
224 trained at the applicant's school, and the estimated increase in
225 the number of students to be trained at the applicant's school.

226 **SECTION 7.** This act shall stand repealed on July 1, 2026.

227 **SECTION 8.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
228 and after July 1, 2022.

