

By: Representatives Osborne, Sanders,
Taylor, Karriem

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1050

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE "MISSISSIPPI STUDENTS VOICING
2 OPINIONS IN TODAY'S ELECTIONS (VOTE) ACT" FOR THE PURPOSE OF
3 CREATING A PILOT PROGRAM IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE VOTER
4 REGISTRATION INFORMATION TO STUDENTS IN GRADE 12; TO REQUIRE THE
5 SECRETARY OF STATE TO IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER THE PILOT PROGRAM
6 IN CONJUNCTION WITH COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL ELECTION COMMISSION AND
7 STATE POLITICAL PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES; TO PRESCRIBE CRITERIA
8 FOR ELIGIBILITY OF LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES TO RECEIVE FUNDS
9 UNDER THE PILOT PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE REPORTS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE
10 SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE LEGISLATURE; TO REQUIRE THE LEGISLATURE
11 TO APPROPRIATE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PILOT
12 PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

14 SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
15 "Mississippi Students Voicing Opinions in Today's Elections (VOTE)
16 Act."

17 SECTION 2. (1) The Secretary of State, hereinafter referred
18 to as the "Secretary," shall develop, implement and administer a
19 pilot program in conjunction with county and municipal elections
20 commissions, the Mississippi Democratic Party Executive Committee
21 and the Mississippi Republican Party Executive Committee, to
22 provide funds during 2025 fiscal year to local educational
23 agencies for initiatives to provide information on registering to



24 vote in elections for public office to secondary school students
25 in the Grade 12.

26 (2) A local educational agency is eligible to receive funds
27 under the pilot program if the agency submits to the Office of
28 Secretary of State, at such time and in such form as the Secretary
29 may require, an application containing:

30 (a) A description of the initiatives the local
31 education agency intends to carry out with the funds;

32 (b) An estimate of the costs associated with those
33 initiatives described in paragraph (a); and

34 (c) Any other information and assurances as the
35 Secretary may require.

36 (3) In developing the initiatives the local educational
37 agency will carry out with funds received under the pilot program,
38 the local educational agency shall consult with state and local
39 election officials responsible for administering elections for
40 public office in the county or municipality served by the local
41 educational agency.

42 (d) For purposes of this act:

43 (i) "Local educational agency" means a public
44 board of education or other public authority legally constituted
45 within the State of Mississippi for either administrative control
46 or direction of, or to perform a service function for, public
47 elementary schools or secondary schools in a city, county, school
48 district or other political subdivision of the state; and



49 (ii) "Secondary school" means a nonprofit
50 institutional day or residential school, including a public
51 secondary charter school, that provides secondary education, as
52 determined under State law, except that the term does not include
53 any education beyond Grade 12.

54 **SECTION 3.** (1) Not later than ninety (90) days after the
55 initial date that a local educational agency receives funds under
56 the pilot program, each recipient local educational agency shall
57 submit a report to the Secretary of State describing the
58 initiatives carried out with the funds and analyzing their
59 effectiveness.

60 (2) Not later than sixty (60) days after the date that the
61 Secretary receives the final report submitted by a local
62 educational agency under subsection (1), the Secretary of State
63 shall submit a report to the Mississippi Legislature on the pilot
64 program.

65 **SECTION 4.** The Legislature shall appropriate such sums as
66 may be necessary to carry out the provisions of Section 1 through
67 3 of this act.

68 **SECTION 5.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
69 and after July 1, 2024.

