

By: Representative Montgomery (15th)

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 379

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO AWARD HIGH  
2 SCHOOL DIPLOMAS TO WORLD WAR II VETERANS WHO WERE UNABLE TO  
3 COMPLETE THEIR SCHOOL CURRICULUM DUE TO THEIR MILITARY SERVICE; TO  
4 REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP A UNIFORM  
5 APPLICATION FOR THE DIPLOMA; TO ENCOURAGE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS  
6 TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE RECOGNITION IN AWARDING DIPLOMAS TO  
7 VETERANS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

9 SECTION 1. (1) The school board of a local school district  
10 may award a standard high school diploma in the form prescribed by  
11 the State Board of Education to veterans of World War II who were  
12 unable to complete their school curriculum due to their military  
13 service. The diploma is available to any honorably discharged  
14 veteran residing in Mississippi who was scheduled to graduate  
15 between 1941 and 1950 but was inducted into military service  
16 between September 16, 1940, and December 31, 1946, before  
17 completing the necessary graduation requirements. Family members  
18 of deceased eligible veterans may apply for the diploma to be  
19 awarded posthumously.

20 (2) The State Board of Education shall develop a uniform  
21 application for persons seeking a diploma under subsection (1) of  
22 this section. The application shall request no less than the  
23 following information:

24 (a) The veteran's name, social security number and date  
25 of birth;

26 (b) The last year the veteran was in school and the  
27 veteran's grade level during that year;

28 (c) The year the veteran left school to enter World War  
29 II;



- 30           (d) The year the veteran would have graduated from high  
31 school;
- 32           (e) The name and location of the school attended;
- 33           (f) The date of the veteran's enlistment or draft;
- 34           (g) The veteran's service number;
- 35           (h) The veteran's date of honorable discharge;
- 36           (i) A copy of the veteran's DD-214 form, if available;
- 37 and
- 38           (j) Any other information deemed relevant by the State  
39 Board of Education.

40           The State Board of Education shall provide the State Veterans  
41 Affairs Board, local school districts and county departments of  
42 human services with copies of the uniform application.

43           (3) A person may request an application from a local school  
44 district, any county department of human services, the State  
45 Department of Education or the State Veterans Affairs Board.  
46 Completed applications for a diploma may be submitted to the  
47 school board of the local school district in which the veteran  
48 resides (or resided if the veteran is deceased), although  
49 attendance in that particular school district is not a requirement  
50 for a diploma. Upon verifying the information contained in the  
51 application, including verifying the veteran's military service  
52 information with the State Veterans Affairs Board, the school  
53 district may award a standard high school diploma to the veteran.

54           (4) Local school districts are encouraged to provide  
55 appropriate recognition, which may include special ceremonies, to  
56 veterans who are awarded high school diplomas under this section.

57           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
58 and after July 1, 2001.

