

By: Representatives Clark, Montgomery  
(15th), Rogers

To: Education

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 396

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

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

9 SECTION 1. (1) The State Board of Education may award an  
10 honorary high school diploma in a form prescribed by the board to  
11 veterans of World War II and the Korean Conflict who were unable  
12 to complete their education due to their military service. The  
13 honorary diploma is available to any honorably discharged veteran  
14 residing in Mississippi who was scheduled to graduate between 1941  
15 and 1955 but was inducted into military service before completing  
16 the necessary graduation requirements. Family members of deceased  
17 eligible veterans may apply for the diploma to be awarded  
18 posthumously.

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

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

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

27 (c) The year the veteran left school to enter World War  
28 II or the Korean Conflict;

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

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

42           (3) A person may request an application from a local school  
43 district, any county department of human services, the State  
44 Department of Education or the State Veterans Affairs Board.  
45 Completed applications for a diploma may be submitted to the State  
46 Board of Education. Upon verifying the information contained in  
47 the application, including verifying the veteran's military  
48 service information with the State Veterans Affairs Board, and  
49 determining the veteran's eligibility for the honorary high school  
50 diploma, the State Board of Education may award the diploma to the  
51 veteran.

52           (4) The State Board of Education is encouraged to provide  
53 appropriate recognition, which may include special ceremonies, to  
54 veterans who are awarded honorary high school diplomas under this  
55 section.

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