

By: Representative Mayo

To: Military Affairs; Public Health and Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 97

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR SCREENING OF MEMBERS OF THE UNITED  
2 STATES ARMED FORCES WHO SERVED IN CERTAIN AREAS AND WHO MAY HAVE  
3 BEEN EXPOSED TO DEPLETED URANIUM DURING THAT SERVICE; TO REQUIRE  
4 THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL GUARD TO SUBMIT A  
5 REPORT TO CERTAIN LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES REGARDING THE TRAINING  
6 RECEIVED BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES ON DETECTING WHETHER THEIR  
7 SERVICE IS LIKELY TO ENTAIL EXPOSURE TO DEPLETED URANIUM; AND FOR  
8 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** (1) For the purposes of this section, the  
11 following terms shall have the following meanings:

12 (a) "Depleted uranium" means uranium containing less  
13 uranium-235 than the naturally occurring distribution of uranium  
14 isotopes.

15 (b) "Eligible member" means a member who served in the  
16 Persian Gulf War, as defined in 38 USCS Section 101, or in an area  
17 designated as a combat zone by the President of the United States  
18 during Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

19 (c) "Member of the Armed Forces" or "member" means a  
20 member of the Armed Forces of the United States, including the  
21 Mississippi National Guard, who is a resident of this state.

22 (d) "Veteran" means a member who served as an eligible  
23 member.

24 (2) On and after July 1, 2006, any eligible member or  
25 veteran who returns or has returned to this state after service in  
26 an area designated as a combat zone by the President of the United  
27 States and who has been assigned a risk level I or II for depleted  
28 uranium exposure by his branch or service, or any other member or  
29 veteran who has reason to believe that he was exposed to depleted  
30 uranium during that service, shall have the right to a best

31 practice health screening test for exposure to depleted uranium  
32 using a bioassay procedure involving sensitive methods capable of  
33 detecting depleted uranium at low levels and the use of equipment  
34 with the capacity to discriminate between different radioisotopes  
35 in naturally occurring levels of uranium and the characteristic  
36 ratio and marker for depleted uranium.

37 (3) On or before January 1, 2007, the Adjutant General of  
38 the Mississippi National Guard shall submit a report to the House  
39 Military Affairs Committee and Public Health and Human Services  
40 Committee and to the Senate Veterans and Military Affairs  
41 Committee and Public Health and Welfare Committee on the scope and  
42 adequacy of training received by members of the Armed Forces on  
43 detecting whether their service as eligible members is likely to  
44 entail, or to have entailed, exposure to depleted uranium. The  
45 report shall include an assessment of the feasibility and cost of  
46 adding predeployment training concerning potential exposure to  
47 depleted uranium and other toxic chemical substances and the  
48 precautions recommended under combat and noncombat conditions  
49 while in a combat zone.

50 (4) The screening tests specified under subsection (2) of  
51 this section may be funded from any funds available or made  
52 available for that purpose.

53 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
54 and after July 1, 2006.