

By: Representatives Rogers (61st), Mayo

To: Military Affairs

HOUSE BILL NO. 617

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 33-7-405, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO PROVIDE AUTHORITY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL TO AUTHORIZE STATE
3 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNDS FOR ROOM AND BOARD PAYMENTS
4 TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS IN AN OFFICER PRODUCING PROGRAM; AND FOR
5 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 33-7-405, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 33-7-405. The Adjutant General is hereby authorized to pay
10 the tuition, room and board for any active member of the
11 Mississippi National Guard who is enrolled or may enroll within
12 the State of Mississippi in an accredited institution of higher
13 learning, vocational education school or junior college. To be
14 eligible for such benefits, the individual, at the time of his
15 initial enrollment, must be a captain, lieutenant, warrant
16 officer, cadet, officer candidate or enlisted member of the
17 Mississippi National Guard, or a member of such guard who is
18 participating in the educational program authorized by this
19 section as of the effective date of this article; be at least
20 seventeen (17) years of age; and be a resident and a qualified
21 elector of the State of Mississippi. To be eligible for the room
22 and board grant, an individual must also be in an officer
23 producing program and be selected to receive the grant by the
24 Adjutant General. The tuition may only be used for undergraduate
25 studies and vocational education courses, whether such coursework
26 is taken on a semester or clock-hour basis. In no event will any
27 individual be eligible for payment of tuition after receipt of an
28 undergraduate degree, whether received through this article or

29 not. No person shall be eligible for a tuition and/or a room and
30 board grant for more than ten (10) years after the date of the
31 first tuition payment for him under this article. The Adjutant
32 General shall set up minimum standards for performance that must
33 be met in order to maintain eligibility for continuing in the
34 program.

35 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
36 and after July 1, 2007.