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To: Universities and
Colleges; Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 1250

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE WAIVER OF TUITION, REQUIRED FEES
2 AND HOUSING COSTS AT THE STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING AND
3 COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES FOR THE CHILDREN OF DECEASED
4 VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES WHO WERE KILLED IN THE
5 LINE OF DUTY; TO REQUIRE APPLICATIONS FOR A WAIVER TO INCLUDE
6 DOCUMENTATION CONCERNING THE DECEASED VETERAN'S DEATH; TO PROVIDE
7 THAT TUITION MAY BE WAIVED FOR BOTH FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME
8 STUDENTS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE
9 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING SHALL BE THE ADMINISTERING AGENCY
10 OF THE TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

12 **SECTION 1.** (1) Beginning with the 2007-2008 academic year,
13 any resident of the State of Mississippi who is the child of a
14 deceased veteran of the United States Armed Forces who was killed
15 in the line of duty may apply for a waiver of tuition at any state
16 institution of higher learning or public community or junior
17 college in the state. For the purposes of this section, the term
18 "child" means a natural child, legally adopted child or stepchild.

19 (2) A deceased veteran's child who qualifies for a tuition
20 waiver under this section who is enrolled in or accepted for
21 enrollment at a state institution of higher learning or a public
22 community or junior college in Mississippi may apply for a waiver
23 of tuition. In order to be eligible, a child may not have reached
24 the age of twenty-three (23) years on the first day of the
25 quarter, semester, trimester or term for which the child is
26 enrolling; however, any child who has begun earning academic
27 credit in furtherance of an associate or baccalaureate degree or
28 certificate program before attaining the age of twenty-three (23)
29 years whose college instruction is interrupted for any reason is
30 eligible to receive academic waivers in furtherance of the degree
31 or certificate toward which the student is working, subject to the

32 conditions prescribed in subsection (3). An application must be
33 accompanied by proper proof that the deceased veteran is a veteran
34 of the United States Armed Forces and that the veteran was killed
35 in the line of duty.

36 (3) A waiver of tuition awarded under this section may not
37 exceed the actual cost of tuition at the institution or college at
38 which the child of a deceased veteran is enrolled or accepted for
39 enrollment. For purposes of this section, the term "tuition"
40 means the quarter, semester, trimester or term charges, all
41 required fees and housing costs; however, the term "tuition" does
42 not include books, food, school supplies, materials, dues or fees
43 for extracurricular activities. Both full-time and part-time
44 students may apply for a waiver under this section. Students
45 enrolling on a full-time basis may receive a maximum of four (4)
46 annual waivers, and in those instances when a degree program
47 requires five (5) years for completion, five (5) annual waivers.
48 The number of waivers which may be granted to a student attending
49 school on a part-time basis may not exceed the length of time
50 required to complete the associate or baccalaureate degree or
51 certificate program toward which the student is working. A person
52 who has a baccalaureate degree is not eligible for a waiver of
53 tuition under this section, and any person who has an associate
54 degree may receive waivers only in furtherance of a baccalaureate
55 degree.

56 (4) As a condition for renewal of a waiver of tuition, a
57 student must make steady academic progress toward a certificate or
58 associate or baccalaureate degree, as certified by the
59 institution's registrar, and must maintain a cumulative grade
60 point average of at least 2.00 calculated on a 4.00 scale at the
61 end of each term.

62 (5) The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher
63 Learning and the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges
64 jointly shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry

65 out the purposes of this section. The Board of Trustees of State
66 Institutions of Higher Learning is the administering agency of the
67 tuition waiver program.

68 (6) It is the intent of the Legislature that all children of
69 deceased veterans who are eligible for a waiver of tuition under
70 this section be granted a waiver. If funding at a state
71 institution or community or junior college is insufficient to
72 provide a waiver of tuition for all eligible applicants at that
73 institution or college, the board shall grant the tuition waivers
74 to first-time students on a first-come, first-served basis;
75 however, priority consideration must be given to persons
76 previously receiving waivers under this section who are making
77 steady academic progress toward completion of a certificate
78 program or associate or baccalaureate degree.

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