

By: Representative Henley

To: Universities and  
Colleges; Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 569

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 MISSISSIPPI  
 4 SERVICE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES WHO WERE KILLED  
 5 IN THE LINE OF DUTY OR DIED AS THE IMMEDIATE RESULT OF A  
 6 SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY AS DETERMINED BY THE UNITED STATES  
 7 DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS; TO REQUIRE APPLICATIONS FOR A  
 8 WAIVER TO INCLUDE DOCUMENTATION CONCERNING THE DECEASED VETERAN'S  
 9 DEATH; TO PROVIDE THAT TUITION MAY BE WAIVED FOR BOTH FULL-TIME  
 10 AND PART-TIME STUDENTS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF  
 11 STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING SHALL BE THE ADMINISTERING  
 12 AGENCY OF THE TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

14 **SECTION 1.** (1) For the purposes of this section, the term  
 15 "child" means a natural child, legally adopted child or stepchild.

16 (2) Beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year, any resident  
 17 of the State of Mississippi who is the child of a Mississippi  
 18 service member of the United States Armed Forces who was killed in  
 19 the line of duty or died as the immediate result of a  
 20 service-connected disability as determined by the United States  
 21 Department of Veterans Affairs, and who is enrolled in or accepted  
 22 for enrollment at a state institution of higher learning or a  
 23 public community or junior college in Mississippi, may apply for a



24 waiver of tuition at the institution or college. In order to be  
25 eligible for a tuition waiver, a child must not have reached  
26 twenty-three (23) years of age on the first day of the quarter,  
27 semester, trimester or term for which the child is enrolling;  
28 however, any child who has begun earning academic credit in  
29 furtherance of an associate or baccalaureate degree or certificate  
30 program before attaining twenty-three (23) years of age whose  
31 college instruction is interrupted for any reason is eligible to  
32 receive academic waivers in furtherance of the degree or  
33 certificate toward which the student is working, subject to the  
34 conditions prescribed in subsection (3) of this section. An  
35 application must be accompanied by proper proof that the deceased  
36 service member is a Mississippi citizen and a member of the United  
37 States Armed Forces and that was killed in the line of duty or  
38 died as an immediate result of a service-connected disability as  
39 determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

40 (3) A waiver of tuition awarded under this section may not  
41 exceed the actual cost of tuition at the institution or college at  
42 which the child of a deceased veteran is enrolled or accepted for  
43 enrollment and may be reduced by an amount to ensure the value of  
44 the waiver, combined with any other grants, scholarships and  
45 benefits received by the student, does not exceed the actual cost  
46 of tuition. For purposes of this section, the term "tuition"  
47 means the quarter, semester, trimester or term charges, all  
48 required fees and housing costs; however, the term "tuition" does



49 not include books, food, school supplies, materials, dues or fees  
50 for extracurricular activities. Both full-time and part-time  
51 students may apply for a waiver under this section. Students  
52 enrolling on a full-time basis may receive a maximum of four (4)  
53 annual waivers, and in those instances when a degree program  
54 requires five (5) years for completion, five (5) annual waivers.  
55 The number of waivers that may be granted to a student attending  
56 school on a part-time basis may not exceed the length of time  
57 required to complete the associate or baccalaureate degree or  
58 certificate program toward which the student is working. A person  
59 who has a baccalaureate degree is not eligible for a waiver of  
60 tuition under this section, and any person who has an associate  
61 degree may receive waivers only in furtherance of a baccalaureate  
62 degree.

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

69 (5) The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher  
70 Learning and the Mississippi Community College Board jointly shall  
71 promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out the  
72 purposes of this section. The Board of Trustees of State



73 Institutions of Higher Learning is the administering agency of the  
74 tuition waiver program.

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

86 (7) The Legislature shall appropriate all funds necessary to  
87 carry out the provisions of this act.

88 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
89 and after July 1, 2018.

