

By: Representatives Arnold, Waldo

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 647

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD OF PUBLIC SCHOOL
 2 DISTRICTS TO PROVIDE VETERANS AND CERTAIN OTHER MILITARY SERVICE
 3 MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FREE ADMISSION INTO ALL
 4 SCHOOL-SPONSORED AND MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES
 5 ASSOCIATION GOVERNED EXTRACURRICULAR ATHLETIC EVENTS HOSTED BY THE
 6 DISTRICT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** (1) Beginning with the 2024-2025 academic term,
 9 the local school board of each public school district shall adopt
 10 a policy that authorizes each school under its jurisdiction to
 11 provide veterans and other qualified military service members of
 12 the United States Armed Forces free admission into all
 13 school-sponsored and Mississippi High School Activities
 14 Association governed extracurricular athletic events hosted by the
 15 district. In order to avail themselves of free admission, the
 16 veteran or other qualified military service member must present
 17 proof of veteran, active duty or reserve status at the ticket
 18 window on the day of their attendance. For purposes of this
 19 section, proof of veteran, active duty or reserve status may be



20 verified upon the person seeking admission's presentation of
21 either of the following:

22 (a) A copy of his or her DD-214 discharge form, which
23 indicates the veteran's honorable discharge status, along with
24 photo identification that contains corresponding identifying
25 information by means of name, date of birth and gender;

26 (b) A Veteran's Identification Card (VIC);

27 (c) A valid driver's license or state-issued personal
28 identification card with an included veteran endorsement;

29 (d) A current Common Access Card (CAC), which is the
30 standard identification for active duty uniformed service
31 personnel, Selected Reserves, Reserve and National Guard members,
32 which identifies the branch of service the cardholder is
33 affiliated; or

34 (e) If a nonresident on leave from active duty, a
35 current CAC and any documentation of proof of leave orders as may
36 be required by the school district.

37 (2) For purposes of this section the following terms shall
38 have the meanings ascribed in the subsection:

39 (a) "Veteran" means a person who served in the active
40 military, naval or air service, and who was discharged or released
41 therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.

42 (b) "Qualified military service member" means an active
43 member of the military, naval or air service, which include:

44 (i) The United States Army;



- 45 (ii) The United States Navy;
- 46 (iii) The United States Marine Corps;
- 47 (iv) The United States Air Force;
- 48 (v) The United States Coast Guard;
- 49 (vi) The Mississippi Army or Air National Guard;
- 50 or
- 51 (vii) As an active reservist of either of the
- 52 above.

53 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from

54 and after July 1, 2024.

