

By: Representative Arnold

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 619

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(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, 2025.

