

By: Senator(s) Harden, Furniss, Jordan,
Hyde-Smith

To: Education;
Appropriations

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 2860

1 AN ACT RELATING TO THE JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS
2 (JROTC) PROGRAM; TO REQUIRE THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC
3 EDUCATION TO EMPLOY OR CONTRACT WITH THE MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL
4 GUARD FOR A STATEWIDE COORDINATOR FOR JROTC PROGRAMS AND TO
5 ESTABLISH THE DUTIES OF THE STATEWIDE COORDINATOR; TO REQUIRE THE
6 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO STUDY ISSUES RELATING TO THE FUNDING
7 OF JROTC AND THE LICENSURE OF JROTC INSTRUCTORS AND TO REQUIRE THE
8 BOARD TO REPORT ITS FINDINGS TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE
9 HOUSE AND SENATE BEFORE THE 2002 SESSION; AND FOR RELATED
10 PURPOSES.

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

12 SECTION 1. (1) Subject to the availability of funding for
13 such purpose, the State Superintendent of Public Education shall
14 employ within the State Department of Education or, in the
15 alternative, contract with the Mississippi National Guard for a
16 statewide coordinator for Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps
17 (JROTC) programs in the public schools. If employed by the State
18 Department of Education, the JROTC statewide coordinator must be
19 an active or retired member of the military and must meet any
20 additional qualifications that may be established for the position
21 by the State Superintendent of Public Education or State Personnel
22 Board.

23 (2) The following are the powers and duties of the JROTC
24 statewide coordinator:

25 (a) To coordinate training of new JROTC instructors and
26 continuing education programs for certified instructors;

27 (b) To facilitate communication between JROTC programs
28 in the various public schools;

29 (c) To assist in organizing competitions among JROTC
30 units from different high schools;

- 31 (d) To assist in the development of the JROTC
32 curriculum;
- 33 (e) To compile information on scholarships available to
34 JROTC participants and to solicit support for such scholarships;
- 35 (f) To assist in establishing support groups for
36 parents of students participating in a JROTC program;
- 37 (g) To solicit financial support for JROTC programs
38 from private sector donors;
- 39 (h) To promote the involvement of JROTC units within
40 their local communities;
- 41 (i) To facilitate interaction between JROTC units and
42 the Mississippi National Guard;
- 43 (j) To promote, in general, the JROTC program in high
44 schools throughout the state;
- 45 (k) To assist local schools with the application
46 process for establishing new JROTC programs in high schools; and
- 47 (l) To perform such other duties relating to the JROTC
48 program established by the State Superintendent of Public
49 Education or State Board of Education.

50 SECTION 2. The State Board of Education shall study the
51 issues relating to the funding of Junior Reserve Officer Training
52 Corps (JROTC) and the licensing of JROTC instructors. In studying
53 the licensing issue, the board shall consider the credentials
54 required for certification as a JROTC instructor. The board shall
55 present a report on its findings concerning these issues along
56 with any other issues related to JROTC to the Chairman of the
57 Education Committees of the House of Representatives and Senate
58 before December 15, 2001, which report must include recommended
59 legislation necessary to effectuate the board's recommendations
60 relating to JROTC.

61 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from
62 and after July 1, 2001.