

By: Senator(s) Kirby

To: Universities and  
Colleges; Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2017

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A TUITION WAIVER FOR SPOUSES OF MEMBERS  
2 OF THE MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL GUARD IN ACTIVE DRILLING STATUS; TO  
3 PROVIDE FOR TUITION STABILIZATION PAYMENTS FOR MISSISSIPPI  
4 NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** (1) Spouses of any member of the Mississippi  
7 National Guard in active drilling status shall be entitled to  
8 receive a tuition waiver of fifty percent (50%) for a maximum of  
9 eight (8) semesters at any state university or community and  
10 junior college.

11 (2) For the purposes of this section, the term "spouse"  
12 means a person who has entered into a marital contract, as  
13 recognized by the State of Mississippi, with a Mississippi  
14 National Guardsman and is further defined as a "dependant" by the  
15 Mississippi Adjutant General. In order to qualify for the tuition  
16 waiver, the spouse shall be a resident of Mississippi during the  
17 semester the waiver was received.

18 (3) The tuition waiver may only be used for undergraduate  
19 studies or vocational education courses, whether such coursework  
20 is taken on a semester or clock-hour basis. In no event shall a  
21 spouse be eligible for the tuition waiver after receipt of an  
22 undergraduate degree, whether received through this section or  
23 not. No spouse shall be eligible for a tuition waiver after ten  
24 (10) years from the date of the first semester waiver under this  
25 section.

26 (4) The Adjutant General shall set up minimum academic  
27 standards for performance that must be met in order to maintain  
28 eligibility for continuing in the program.

29           **SECTION 2.** (1) Mississippi National Guard members in an  
30 active drilling status, including SMP cadets, shall receive a  
31 tuition stabilization payment of Four Thousand Five Hundred  
32 Dollars (\$4,500.00) per year or the amount authorized by the  
33 Federal Tuition Assistance Program, whichever is greater, for  
34 undergraduate studies at any state four-year university.

35           (2) For the purposes of this section, a year is defined as a  
36 Spring semester of eighteen (18) hours, a Summer semester of six  
37 (6) hours and a Fall semester of eighteen (18) hours.

38           (3) The Adjutant General shall set up minimum academic  
39 standards for performance that must be met in order to maintain  
40 eligibility for continuing in the program.

41           (4) An individual must be a member of the Mississippi  
42 National Guard for the entire semester that he receives the  
43 tuition stabilization award.

44           **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
45 and after July 1, 2007.