

**Adopted
AMENDMENT NO 4 PROPOSED TO**

Senate Bill No. 2518

BY: Representative Faulkner

1 **AMEND** after line 65 by inserting the following:

2 **"SECTION 5.** Section 37-106-39, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
3 amended as follows:

4 37-106-39. (1) There is established the Mississippi Law
5 Enforcement Officers * * *, Firefighters and First Responders
6 Scholarship.

7 (2) Except as provided in this section, if any Mississippi
8 law enforcement officer, full-time firefighter or volunteer
9 firefighter or first responder shall suffer or has suffered fatal
10 injuries or wounds or become permanently and totally disabled as a
11 result of injuries or wounds which occurred in the performance of
12 the official and appointed duties of his or her office, his or her
13 spouse, child or children shall be entitled to an eight-semester



14 scholarship without cost, exclusive of books, food, school
15 supplies, materials and dues or fees for extracurricular
16 activities, at any state-supported college or university of his or
17 her choice within this state.

18 (a) No child shall be entitled to receive benefits
19 during any semester or quarter when said child has reached the age
20 of twenty-three (23) years on the first day of said semester or
21 quarter. However, any child who has begun the process of
22 acquiring college credits under the provisions of this section
23 prior to attaining the age of twenty-three (23) years shall be
24 entitled to the full eight-semester scholarship if his or her
25 college instruction was interrupted for any reason.

26 (b) Scholarship benefits shall not accrue hereunder to
27 any person if the wounds or injuries suffered by any law
28 enforcement officer, full-time firefighter or volunteer
29 firefighter or first responder are self-inflicted or if his death
30 is self-induced.

31 (3) Eligibility for renewal of the scholarship shall be
32 evaluated each academic year at the end of each semester or term.
33 As a condition for renewal, a student shall:

34 (a) Make steady academic progress toward a certificate
35 or degree, as outlined in the school Satisfactory Academic
36 Progress Standards and certified by the institution's registrar;
37 and



38 (b) Have a cumulative grade point average of at least
39 2.5 calculated on a 4.0 scale at the end of each academic year.

40 (4) For the purposes of this section, these words and
41 phrases shall be defined as follows:

42 (a) "Mississippi law enforcement officers" shall be
43 defined as follows:

44 (i) "State highway patrolmen" means all law
45 enforcement officers, regardless of department or bureau, of the
46 Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol.

47 (ii) "Municipal police officers" means all law
48 enforcement officers of any municipality who are regular duty
49 personnel on full-time status, auxiliary or reserve officers, or
50 those serving on a temporary or part-time status.

51 (iii) "Sheriffs" and "deputy sheriffs" means all
52 law enforcement officers of full-time duty status on a regular
53 basis serving the sheriff's department of any county, deputy
54 sheriffs who are engaged in administrative or civil duty,
55 auxiliary or reserve deputies, or deputy sheriffs serving in a
56 temporary capacity or part-time basis.

57 (iv) "Constables" means all duly elected
58 constables of any beat of any county within the state while
59 actually engaged in the performance of their duties concerning the
60 criminal laws of the county and state.

61 (v) "Conservation officers" means all duly
62 appointed game wardens employed by the State of Mississippi on a



63 full-time duty status while actually engaged in the performance of
64 their duties concerning the game laws of the state.

65 (vi) "Alcoholic Beverage Control Division agents
66 and inspectors" means all duly appointed agents and investigators
67 of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Division of the Mississippi
68 Department of Revenue on a full-time duty status while actually
69 engaged in the performance of their duties concerning the
70 alcoholic beverage control laws of the state.

71 (vii) Members of the National Guard serving as
72 peace officers when ordered to state emergency duty under
73 authority vested in the Governor by the Constitution and laws of
74 the state.

75 (viii) "Tax commission scales enforcement
76 officers" means all duly appointed scales enforcement officers of
77 the Mississippi Department of Revenue on a full-time duty status
78 while actually engaged in the performance of their duties.

79 (ix) Duly appointed agents of the Mississippi
80 Bureau of Narcotics.

81 (x) Correctional, probation and parole officers
82 employed by the Mississippi Department of Corrections.

83 (b) "Mississippi full-time firefighters" shall be
84 defined as all firefighters employed by any subdivision of the
85 State of Mississippi on a full-time duty status while actually
86 engaged in the performance of their duties, and volunteer
87 firefighters shall be defined as any volunteer firefighter



88 registered with the State of Mississippi or a political
89 subdivision thereof on a volunteer firefighting status while
90 actually engaged in the performance of firefighting duties.

91 (c) "Child" or "children" means natural children,
92 adopted children or stepchildren.

93 (d) "Spouse" means a person who was, at the time of the
94 death of the decedent, legally married to a Mississippi law
95 enforcement officer, full-time firefighter, or volunteer
96 firefighter, or in the case of a law enforcement officer,
97 full-time firefighter or volunteer firefighter who suffered fatal
98 injuries or wounds, prior to or after March 13, 1990, who has not
99 remarried.

100 (e) "First responder" means state and local law
101 enforcement personnel, fire department personnel, emergency
102 medical personnel, emergency management personnel and public works
103 personnel.

104 (5) (a) Any law enforcement officer, full-time firefighter
105 or volunteer firefighter or first responder claiming permanent and
106 total disability shall be qualified or disqualified for a claim
107 under this section based on examination and review of the
108 following four (4) documents:

109 (i) A letter from the officer's * * *,
110 firefighter's or first responder's former supervisor or employer
111 stating whether the officer * * *, firefighter or first responder



112 is disabled as a result of injuries or wounds that occurred in the
113 performance of the official duties of his office;

114 (ii) A statement from the officer's * * *,
115 firefighter's or first responder's physician stating whether the
116 officer * * *, firefighter or first responder is disabled and the
117 reason for that disability;

118 (iii) Verification from the Public Employees'
119 Retirement System; and

120 (iv) Verification from the Social Security
121 Administration.

122 (b) If the law enforcement officer, full-time
123 firefighter or volunteer firefighter or first responder suffered
124 fatal injuries or wounds, a claim under this section shall be
125 based on examination and review of the following two (2)
126 documents:

127 (i) A letter from the officer's * * *,
128 firefighter's or first responder's former supervisor or employer
129 stating whether he suffered fatal injuries in the performance of
130 the official duties of his office; and

131 (ii) A death certificate.

132 (6) Any applicant qualified and desiring a scholarship under
133 the provisions of this section shall apply in writing to the
134 board. The board shall make inquiries into each application and
135 shall make the investigation as it deems proper to establish and
136 validate all claims before a scholarship is granted."



137 **AMEND title by inserting the following after the semicolon on**

138 **line 12:**

139 "TO AMEND SECTION 37-106-39, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
140 PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE SPOUSES AND CHILDREN OF FIRST
141 RESPONDERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY OR WHO BECOME PERMANENTLY
142 AND TOTALLY DISABLED AS THE RESULT OF INJURIES OR WOUNDS WHICH
143 OCCURRED WHILE IN THE LINE OF DUTY;"

