

By: Senator(s) Tate, Barnett, Barrett, Berry, Blackmon, Blackwell, Blount, Boyd, Brumfield, Bryan, Butler, Carter, Chassaniol, Chism, DeLano, DuPree, England, Fillingane, Frazier, Gillespie, Isom, Harkins, Hartness, Hickman, Hill, Hopson, Jackson, Johnson, Kirby, Ladner, McCaughn, McLendon, McMahan, Michel, Mumford, Norwood, Parks, Pope, Rhodes, Seymour, Simmons (12th), Simmons (13th), Sparks, Suber, Taylor, Thomas, Thompson, Turner-Ford, Whaley, Wiggins, Williams, Younger

To: Veterans and Military Affairs

SENATE BILL NO. 2018

1 AN ACT TO ENACT THE MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL GUARD TRICARE
2 PREMIUM REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM TO REIMBURSE MEMBERS OF THE
3 MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL GUARD FOR THE COST OF PREMIUMS FOR TRICARE
4 RESERVE SELECT HEALTH CARE PLANS; TO STATE THE PURPOSE OF THE
5 PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA; TO PROVIDE THAT ELIGIBLE
6 MEMBERS SHALL RECEIVE A REIMBURSEMENT FOR ELIGIBLE TRICARE RESERVE
7 SELECT PREMIUMS PAID AT THE CURRENT TRICARE RESERVE SELECT PREMIUM
8 RATE; TO REQUIRE THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL
9 GUARD TO PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION
10 OF THE PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE THAT THE FUNDS FOR THIS PROGRAM SHALL
11 BE SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION BY THE LEGISLATURE; TO REQUIRE AN
12 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

14 **SECTION 1.** (1) As used in this section, the following terms
15 have the meaning herein ascribed unless the context clearly
16 requires otherwise:

17 (a) "Adjutant General" means the individual appointed
18 and commissioned under Section 33-3-7 as the Adjutant General of
19 the department.

20 (b) "Department" means the Mississippi Military
21 Department recognized under Section 33-3-3.



22 (c) "Mississippi National Guard" has the meaning
23 assigned under Section 33-1-1(c).

24 (d) "Program" means the "Mississippi National Guard
25 Tricare Premium Reimbursement Program."

26 (2) There is hereby established the Mississippi National
27 Guard Tricare Premium Reimbursement Program within the department
28 to be administered by the Adjutant General subject to
29 appropriation by the Legislature.

30 (3) The purpose of the program is to:

31 (a) Reimburse members of the Mississippi National Guard
32 for the cost of premiums for Tricare Reserve Select health care
33 plans;

34 (b) Enhance the medical readiness of the Mississippi
35 National Guard;

36 (c) Assist members with their healthcare needs; and

37 (d) Retain qualified personnel in the Mississippi
38 National Guard.

39 (4) A person shall be eligible for this program if he or she
40 meets the following criteria:

41 (a) The person is eligible for Tricare Reserve Select
42 Coverage;

43 (b) The person is not insured by another employer; and

44 (c) The person is an actively drilling member of the
45 Mississippi National Guard.



46 (5) Eligible members who meet the reimbursement requirements
47 as established by the department shall receive a reimbursement for
48 eligible Tricare Reserve Select premiums paid at the current
49 Tricare Reserve Select premium rate for "Tricare Reserve Select -
50 Member only."

51 (6) The Adjutant General shall promulgate rules and
52 regulations necessary for the implementation of the program.

53 (7) The funds for this program shall be subject to
54 appropriation by the Legislature.

55 (8) Beginning December 1, 2026, and each year thereafter,
56 the Adjutant General shall provide a report to the Legislature on
57 the effectiveness of the program, including the number of
58 participants, the impact on medical readiness and any
59 recommendations for improvement.

60 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
61 and after its passage.

