

By: Representative Mayo

To: Military Affairs; Public
Health and Human Services

HOUSE BILL NO. 319

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR SCREENING OF MEMBERS OF THE UNITED
2 STATES ARMED FORCES WHO SERVED IN CERTAIN AREAS AND WHO MAY HAVE
3 BEEN EXPOSED TO DEPLETED URANIUM DURING THAT SERVICE; TO REQUIRE
4 THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL GUARD TO SUBMIT A
5 REPORT TO CERTAIN LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES REGARDING THE TRAINING
6 RECEIVED BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES ON DETECTING WHETHER THEIR
7 SERVICE IS LIKELY TO ENTAIL EXPOSURE TO DEPLETED URANIUM; AND FOR
8 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

10 **SECTION 1.** (1) For the purposes of this section, the
11 following terms shall have the following meanings:

12 (a) "Depleted uranium" means uranium containing less
13 uranium-235 than the naturally occurring distribution of uranium
14 isotopes.

15 (b) "Eligible member" means a member who served in the
16 Persian Gulf War, as defined in 38 USCS Section 101, or in an area
17 designated as a combat zone by the President of the United States
18 during Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

19 (c) "Member of the Armed Forces" or "member" means a
20 member of the Armed Forces of the United States, including the
21 Mississippi National Guard, who is a resident of this state.

22 (d) "Veteran" means a member who served as an eligible
23 member.

24 (2) On and after July 1, 2007, any eligible member or
25 veteran who returns or has returned to this state after service in
26 an area designated as a combat zone by the President of the United
27 States and who has been assigned a risk level I or II for depleted
28 uranium exposure by his branch or service, or any other member or
29 veteran who has reason to believe that he was exposed to depleted
30 uranium during that service, shall have the right to a best

31 practice health screening test for exposure to depleted uranium
32 using a bioassay procedure involving sensitive methods capable of
33 detecting depleted uranium at low levels and the use of equipment
34 with the capacity to discriminate between different radioisotopes
35 in naturally occurring levels of uranium and the characteristic
36 ratio and marker for depleted uranium.

37 (3) On or before January 1, 2008, the Adjutant General of
38 the Mississippi National Guard shall submit a report to the House
39 Military Affairs Committee and Public Health and Human Services
40 Committee and to the Senate Veterans and Military Affairs
41 Committee and Public Health and Welfare Committee on the scope and
42 adequacy of training received by members of the Armed Forces on
43 detecting whether their service as eligible members is likely to
44 entail, or to have entailed, exposure to depleted uranium. The
45 report shall include an assessment of the feasibility and cost of
46 adding predeployment training concerning potential exposure to
47 depleted uranium and other toxic chemical substances and the
48 precautions recommended under combat and noncombat conditions
49 while in a combat zone.

50 (4) The screening tests specified under subsection (2) of
51 this section may be funded from any funds available or made
52 available for that purpose.

53 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
54 and after July 1, 2007.