

1 HB385
2 191999-4
3 By Representatives Lovvorn, McMillan, Beckman, Sells, Mooney,
4 Shiver, Ingram, Howard, Ledbetter, Blackshear, Greer, Ford,
5 Whorton (R), Williams (JW), Whorton (I), Martin, Gaston,
6 Hurst, Fincher, Johnson (R), Coleman, Givan, Faust, Davis,
7 Daniels, Beech, Crawford, Holmes (M), Wadsworth, Ellis, Shedd,
8 Collins, Standridge, Todd, Farley, Sanderford, Pettus, Ball,
9 Tuggle, Brown, Boothe, Drake, Alexander, Jackson, Boyd,
10 Clarke, Drummond, Warren, Knight, McCampbell, Wingo, Nordgren,
11 Butler, Hall and Rowe
12 RFD: Ways and Means Education
13 First Read: 06-FEB-18

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2 ENROLLED, An Act,

3 To establish the Volunteer Rescue Squad Tuition
4 Reimbursement Act of 2018; to require the Alabama Community
5 College System, the Alabama Fire College, and the University
6 of South Alabama, in consultation with the Alabama Association
7 of Rescue Squads and the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire
8 Departments, to jointly develop and administer a tuition
9 reimbursement program for students that successfully complete
10 an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification program;
11 to state that the program shall be funded by direct
12 appropriation from the Education Trust Fund; and to impose
13 requirements for participation in the program including
14 service with a volunteer rescue squad or volunteer fire
15 department located in Alabama for a certain period of time.

16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

17 Section 1. For the purposes of this act, the
18 following terms shall have the following meanings:

19 (1) ACCS. The Alabama Community College System.

20 ~~(2) ASSOCIATION. The Alabama Association of Rescue~~
21 ~~Squads.~~

22 (2) ASSOCIATIONS. The Alabama Association of Rescue
23 Squads or the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire
24 Departments.

1 (3) EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL (EMSP). All
2 recognized levels of personnel licensed by the Alabama
3 Department of Public Health, who have met all primary and/or
4 renewal educational requirements set by the Alabama Department
5 of Public Health, and are allowed to provide medical care
6 within the level of their scope of practice granted by the
7 Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) within the Alabama
8 Department of Public Health.

9 (4) FIRE COLLEGE. The Alabama Fire College.

10 (5) STUDENT. A student enrolled in an emergency
11 medical services certification program at a member institution
12 of the Alabama Community College System, the Alabama Fire
13 College, or the University of South Alabama.

14 (6) VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD. A volunteer rescue squad
15 located in the state of Alabama and is a member of the Alabama
16 Association of Rescue Squads.

17 (7) VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT. A volunteer fire
18 department located in the state of Alabama and is a member of
19 the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments.

20 Section 2. (a) The Alabama Community College System,
21 the Alabama Fire College, and the University of South Alabama,
22 in consultation with the ~~association~~ associations, shall
23 jointly develop and administer a student tuition reimbursement
24 program for students that agree in the form of an enforceable
25 contract agreement, to provide emergency medical services for

1 volunteer rescue squads or volunteer fire departments in
2 Alabama after becoming a licensed EMSP subject to the student
3 agreeing to provide 3 years of service to a volunteer rescue
4 squad or volunteer fire department.

5 (b) Tuition reimbursement under this act shall be
6 the actual tuition costs paid by the student associated with
7 obtaining certification. Tuition costs shall not be reimbursed
8 until the student provides ACCS and the ~~association~~
9 associations with documentation that he or she has
10 successfully completed the approved course of instruction,
11 proof of passing the certification exam, ~~and~~ production of a
12 valid EMSP license from the Alabama Department of Public
13 Health and a contractual agreement to comply with the service
14 requirements.

15 (c) In the event that a tuition reimbursement
16 recipient fails to meet the service requirements for any
17 reason other than extreme hardship as defined within the joint
18 agreement required in Section 5(b), the individual shall be
19 deemed to have breached the underlying contract and shall be
20 liable in the form of monetary damages to the state for the
21 immediate repayment of the total tuition amount reimbursed,
22 plus interest at the rate of 8 percent. The ~~association~~
23 associations shall notify ACCS of recipients who fail to meet
24 the service requirements.

1 Section 3. Beginning October 1, 2018, the member
2 institutions of the Alabama Community College System, the
3 Alabama Fire College, and the University of South Alabama are
4 authorized to enter into contracts with new students seeking
5 to obtain certification as an EMSP.

6 Section 4. (a) The tuition reimbursement program
7 ~~shall be funded by~~ is subject to direct appropriation
8 appropriations from the Education Trust Fund.

9 (b) Any monies appropriated for the program that are
10 unexpended at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert, but
11 shall be carried forward for use of the program in the next
12 fiscal year.

13 Section 5. (a) The Alabama Community College System
14 shall annually report on the condition and accomplishments of
15 the tuition reimbursement program to the Governor, Speaker of
16 the House of Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the
17 Senate, the Chair of the House Ways and Means Education
18 Committee, the Chair of the Senate Finance and Taxation
19 Education Committee, and the Deputy Director of the Legislative
20 Services Agency-Fiscal Division. The report shall include the
21 number of students participating in the program and the amount
22 of tuition reimbursed for the reporting year. The member
23 institutions of the Alabama Community College System, the
24 Alabama Fire College, and the University of South Alabama
25 shall provide this information to ACCS for inclusion in the

1 annual report. ~~The report shall also include the usage rate~~
2 ~~percentage for the preceding fiscal year as calculated by~~
3 ~~dividing the amount of tuition reimbursed by the amount of~~
4 ~~funds appropriated to the program. If the usage rate~~
5 ~~percentage for any fiscal year is less than fifty percent~~
6 ~~(50%), the Alabama Community College System shall make a~~
7 ~~recommendation in the report to expand the tuition~~
8 ~~reimbursement program in the subsequent fiscal year to include~~
9 ~~certification expenditures for volunteer firefighters, subject~~
10 ~~to continued funding for the program. The report shall be~~
11 submitted by the fifth legislative day of each regular session
12 of the Legislature.

13 (b) The Alabama Community College System, the
14 Alabama Fire College, and the University of South Alabama
15 shall enter into a joint agreement to implement and administer
16 the tuition reimbursement program, which shall include
17 provisions for ensuring that operational expenses for the
18 program in a fiscal year do not exceed 2% of the funding for
19 the program in that fiscal year, such as limiting the
20 acceptance of applications fiscal year. The joint agreement
21 shall provide for limiting the acceptance of applications for
22 the program and/or limiting tuition reimbursements when
23 necessary.

24 (c) Any monies received for the operations of the
25 tuition reimbursement program, including repayments, interest

1 and penalties paid because of failure to honor service
2 requirements, shall be used to fund tuition reimbursements.

3 Section 6. This act shall become effective
4 immediately following its passage and approval by the
5 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
and was passed by the House 08-MAR-18, as amended.

Jeff Woodard
Clerk

Senate	<hr/> 22-MAR-18 <hr/>	Amended and Passed
House	<hr/> 28-MAR-18 <hr/>	Concurred in Sen- ate Amendment