

1 HB595
2 150955-2
3 By Representative Knight
4 RFD: Ways and Means Education
5 First Read: 10-APR-13

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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would create the Alabama
9 Prosthetics and Orthotics Education Grant Program
10 to provide grants to public postsecondary
11 institutions that expand master's degree or
12 doctoral degree programs in prosthetics and
13 orthotics.

14 This bill would provide for the duties of
15 the Alabama Commission on Higher Education in
16 administering the program.

17
18 A BILL
19 TO BE ENTITLED
20 AN ACT
21

22 To establish the Alabama Prosthetics and Orthotics
23 Education Grant Program; to provide grants to public
24 postsecondary institutions that expand master's or doctoral
25 degree programs in prosthetics and orthotics; to provide for
26 the duties of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education in

1 administering the program; and to provide that grant funds
2 shall come from funds appropriated by the Legislature.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

4 Section 1. For purposes of this act, the following
5 terms shall have the respective meanings unless the context
6 clearly indicated otherwise:

7 (1) ACHE. The Alabama Commission on Higher Education

8 (2) APPROVED INSTITUTION. An eligible institution
9 within the State of Alabama that has been awarded a grant by
10 the ACHE.

11 (3) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION. A public postsecondary
12 institution that offers an existing orthotics and prosthetics
13 education program that:

14 a. Is accredited by the National Commission on
15 Orthotic and Prosthetic Education in cooperation with the
16 Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education
17 Programs; or

18 b. Demonstrates an ability to meet the accreditation
19 requirements for orthotic and prosthetic education from the
20 National Commission if the institution receives a grant under
21 this section.

22 (4) GRANT. The award by the ACHE of funds
23 appropriated by the Legislature or from funds received as
24 gifts or donations to an eligible institution for expenditure
25 according to the provisions of this chapter.

26 Section 2. (a) The Legislature finds that the role
27 of orthotic and prosthetic care has become increasingly

1 prominent in healthcare delivery. As such, the Legislature
2 declares that the demand for orthotics and prosthetics are at
3 an all-time high and that there is a growing need for orthotic
4 and prosthetic services and practitioners.

5 (b) The Legislature further declares that there
6 exists within the State of Alabama public institutions of
7 higher education whose facilities could be used more
8 effectively in the public interest by the granting of
9 financial assistance to public institutions who choose to
10 offer master's or doctoral degree programs in orthotics and
11 prosthetics.

12 (c) This chapter is intended to improve healthcare
13 delivery in orthotic and prosthetic care by addressing the
14 growing need for orthotic and prosthetic services and
15 practitioners.

16 Section 3. (a) There is hereby created the Alabama
17 Prosthetics and Orthotics Education Grant Program for the
18 purpose of providing grants to eligible institutions that
19 expand existing orthotics and prosthetics master's or doctoral
20 degree programs. The Executive Director of the ACHE shall have
21 primary responsibility for the administration of the program,
22 including appropriate staffing, in accordance with rules,
23 regulations, policies and procedures to be promulgated by the
24 ACHE.

25 (b) (1) The Executive Director of the ACHE shall
26 award grants to eligible institutions which shall be used to
27 increase enrollment in the program, to provide faculty

1 training and to expand facilities. The amount of the grant
2 shall be determined by the Executive Director of the ACHE in
3 accordance with rules and regulations to be promulgated by the
4 ACHE.

5 (2) An eligible institution that seeks the award of
6 a grant under this section shall demonstrate a willingness and
7 ability to enter into partnerships with hospitals and
8 facilities by providing clinical rotations at such hospitals
9 and facilities to carry out any of the following:

10 a. Build new or expand existing orthotics and
11 prosthetics master's or doctoral degree programs.

12 b. Train doctoral candidates in fields related to
13 orthotics and prosthetics to prepare them to instruct in
14 orthotics and prosthetics programs.

15 c. Train faculty in orthotics and prosthetics
16 education or related fields for the purpose of instruction in
17 orthotics and prosthetics programs.

18 d. Supplement salaries for faculty in orthotics and
19 prosthetics education.

20 e. Provide financial aid to allow eligible
21 institutions to admit additional students to study orthotics
22 and prosthetics.

23 f. Fund faculty research projects or faculty time to
24 undertake research in the areas of prosthetics and orthotics
25 for the purpose of furthering their teaching abilities.

26 g. Renovate buildings or minor construction to house
27 orthotics and prosthetics education programs. Grant funds

1 used for construction shall be limited to not more than 50
2 percent of the grant amount awarded.

3 h. Purchase equipment, materials and supplies needed
4 for prosthetics and orthotics education.

5 (3) An eligible institution that seeks the award of
6 a grant under this section shall commit and demonstrate an
7 ability to maintain an accredited orthotics and prosthetics
8 education program after the end of the grant.

9 (4) An eligible institution awarded a grant under
10 this section shall give preference in admission to the
11 orthotics and prosthetics master's or doctoral degree programs
12 to veterans, to the extent practicable.

13 Section 4. (a) The ACHE is authorized and empowered
14 to promulgate such rules, regulations, policies and procedures
15 as may be reasonable and proper in order to carry out the
16 provisions and purposes of this chapter. Without limiting the
17 generality of the foregoing, the ACHE is authorized and
18 empowered:

19 (1) To make reasonable rules, regulations and
20 determinations concerning the amount of a grant awarded to
21 approved institutions.

22 (2) To request submission of and obtain all
23 information reasonably needed for the effective administration
24 of the program from approved institutions.

25 (3) To accept grants and contributions, which are
26 intended to provide financial assistance to approved

1 institutions, and to use such grants and contributions for the
2 purpose or purposes for which the same are made.

3 (4) The ACHE shall be responsible for the effective
4 implementation and administration of the program. The ACHE
5 shall issue public information, design all forms needed for
6 the effective administration of the program, process all
7 applications, certifications of eligibility, approvals,
8 awards, renewals, revocations and disbursements of grants, and
9 promulgate and implement all rules, regulations, policies and
10 procedures reasonably needed for the effective administration
11 of the program.

12 Section 5. The Executive Director of the ACHE shall
13 prepare an annual budget for the Alabama Prosthetics and
14 Orthotics Education Grant Program, and funds shall be
15 appropriated annually by the Legislature from the Education
16 Trust Fund to be used exclusively to carry out the provisions
17 of the program and the administrative expenses incident
18 thereto.

19 Section 6. This act shall become effective on the
20 first day of the third month following its passage and
21 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.