

SENATE No. 1444

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Adam G. Hinds

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to support rural volunteer emergency medical technicians.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Adam G. Hinds

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden

SENATE No. 1444

By Mr. Hinds, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1444) of Adam G. Hinds for legislation to support rural volunteer emergency medical technicians. Public Health.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1269 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act to support rural volunteer emergency medical technicians.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 111C of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
2 following new section:-

3 Section 26. Student tuition reimbursement for rural volunteer EMTs

4 (a) For purposes of this section, the following words shall have the following meanings:

5 “Sponsoring EMS first responder agency”, a certified EMS provider in the
6 Commonwealth serving as a call or volunteer fire department, call or volunteer ambulance
7 department, or other volunteer EMS agency, operating in a service zone with a population
8 density of less than 500 residents per square mile as designated in a department-approved service
9 zone plan.

10 “Volunteer EMT”, a qualified EMT who does not receive monetary compensation for
11 providing emergency medical care through a sponsoring EMS first responder agency, except for
12 when compensation is received by the volunteer EMS first responder in the form of a stipend
13 from the sponsoring EMS first-responder agency.

14 (b) The department shall administer a student tuition reimbursement program for
15 volunteer EMTs who successfully agree to provide emergency medical services for not less than
16 two successive years through or in association with a sponsoring EMS first responder agency.

17 (c) Subject to approval by the department, a qualifying volunteer EMT who enters into an
18 agreement with the department to provide emergency medical services through or in association
19 with a sponsoring EMS first responder agency for two successive years shall receive student
20 tuition reimbursement from the department for having successfully completed an EMT training
21 course, approved by the department or offered by an accredited course sponsor, and who is
22 certified by the department, provided that the maximum tuition reimbursement received by the
23 volunteer EMT shall not exceed \$1,000 to cover the actual tuition costs paid by the student
24 associated with obtaining the certification.

25 (d) An applicant for student tuition reimbursement shall submit appropriate
26 documentation with the department for purposes of being eligible to receive student tuition
27 reimbursement, including, but not limited to: copies of original receipts or other documents
28 stating the actual tuition costs paid for by the applicant to enroll in an approved EMT training
29 course; documents indicating successful completion of an approved EMT training course; a copy
30 of EMT certification, issued by the department, indicating that the holder-applicant has met the
31 requirements for an EMT at a specified level of training; documentation from the sponsoring

32 EMS first responder agency indicating the applicant completed two successive years of service
33 as a volunteer EMT.

34 (e) An applicant approved for student tuition reimbursement may reapply for additional
35 student tuition reimbursement, so long as the individual successfully completes an additional two
36 years of successive service as a volunteer EMT in association with or through a sponsoring EMS
37 first responder agency and has completed service requirements for prior applications to receive
38 student tuition reimbursements, subject to student tuition reimbursement eligibility requirements
39 set forth in paragraphs (c) and (d).

40 (f) A recipient who fails to meet service requirements for any reason other than extreme
41 hardship shall be deemed as breaching the student tuition reimbursement agreement and is liable
42 for monetary damages to the state for immediate repayment of the total tuition amount
43 reimbursed plus interest at a monthly rate of five percent.

44 SECTION 2. The department of public health shall promulgate necessary rules and
45 regulations for purposes of implementing this act.