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3 HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS EDUCATION COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HB385
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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would establish the Volunteer
9 Rescue Squad Tuition Reimbursement Act of 2018.

10 This bill would require the Alabama
11 Community College System, the Alabama Fire College,
12 and the University of South Alabama, in
13 consultation with the Alabama Association of Rescue
14 Squads, to jointly develop and administer a tuition
15 reimbursement program for students that
16 successfully complete an Emergency Medical
17 Technician (EMT) certification program offered by a
18 member institution of the Alabama Community College
19 System, the Alabama Fire College, or the University
20 of South Alabama.

21 This bill would impose requirements for
22 participation in the program including service with
23 a volunteer rescue squad located in Alabama and
24 would authorize appropriations from the Education
25 Trust Fund for the program.
26

27 A BILL

1 TO BE ENTITLED

2 AN ACT

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4 To establish the Volunteer Rescue Squad Tuition
5 Reimbursement Act of 2018; to require the Alabama Community
6 College System, the Alabama Fire College, and the University
7 of South Alabama, in consultation with the Alabama Association
8 of Rescue Squads, 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 located in Alabama for a
15 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 (3) EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL (EMSP). All
23 recognized levels of personnel licensed by the Alabama
24 Department of Public Health, who have met all primary and/or
25 renewal educational requirements set by the Alabama Department
26 of Public Health, and are allowed to provide medical care
27 within the level of their scope of practice granted by the

1 Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) within the Alabama
2 Department of Public Health.

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

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

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

11 Section 2. (a) The Alabama Community College System,
12 the Alabama Fire College, and the University of South Alabama,
13 in consultation with the association, shall jointly develop
14 and administer a student tuition reimbursement program for
15 students that agree to provide emergency medical services for
16 volunteer rescue squads in Alabama after becoming a licensed
17 EMSP subject to the student agreeing to provide 3 years of
18 service to a volunteer rescue squad.

19 (b) Tuition reimbursement under this act shall be
20 the actual tuition costs paid by the student associated with
21 obtaining certification. Tuition costs shall not be reimbursed
22 until the student provides ACCS and the association with
23 documentation that he or she has successfully completed the
24 approved course of instruction, proof of passing the
25 certification exam, and production of a valid EMSP license
26 from the Alabama Department of Public Health.

1 (c) In the event that a tuition reimbursement
2 recipient fails to meet the service requirements for any
3 reason other than extreme hardship as defined within the joint
4 agreement required in Section 5(b), the individual shall be
5 liable for the immediate repayment of the total tuition amount
6 reimbursed, plus interest at the rate of 8 percent. The
7 association shall notify ACCS of recipients who fail to meet
8 the service requirements.

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

14 Section 4. (a) The tuition reimbursement program
15 shall be funded by direct appropriation from the Education
16 Trust Fund.

17 (b) Any monies appropriated for the program that are
18 unexpended at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert, but
19 shall be carried forward for use of the program in the next
20 fiscal year.

21 Section 5. (a) The Alabama Community College System
22 shall annually report on the condition and accomplishments of
23 the tuition reimbursement program to the Governor, Speaker of
24 the House of Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the
25 Senate and the Deputy Director of the Legislative Services
26 Agency-Fiscal Division. The report shall include the number of
27 students participating in the program and the amount of

1 tuition reimbursed for the reporting year. The member
2 institutions of the Alabama Community College System, the
3 Alabama Fire College, and the University of South Alabama
4 shall provide this information to ACCS for inclusion in the
5 annual report. The report shall be submitted by the fifth
6 legislative day of each regular session of the Legislature.

7 (b) The Alabama Community College System, the
8 Alabama Fire College, and the University of South Alabama
9 shall enter into a joint agreement to implement and administer
10 the tuition reimbursement program, which shall include
11 provisions for ensuring that expenses for the program in a
12 fiscal year do not exceed funding for the program in that
13 fiscal year, such as limiting the acceptance of applications
14 for the program and/or limiting tuition reimbursements when
15 necessary.

16 (c) Any monies received for the operations of the
17 tuition reimbursement program, including repayments, interest
18 and penalties paid because of failure to honor service
19 requirements, shall be used to fund tuition reimbursements.

20 Section 6. This act shall become effective
21 immediately following its passage and approval by the
22 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.