



FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 213

Committee: Finance and Taxation Education Sponsor: Representative Joe Lovvorn

Analyst: John Friedenreich

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House Bill 213 as passed the House of Representatives could increase the obligations of the Volunteer Rescue Squad Tuition Reimbursement Program by an undetermined amount to: (1) allow for the reimbursement of fees, in addition to tuition that is an allowed reimbursement under current law; (2) reduce the service requirement of students from 3 year, under current law, to 2 years; (3) add the provision of ambulance services as qualification for a student to meet their service requirement; (4) allow tuition and fee reimbursement to be paid to an association that funded a student; and (5) allow the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) to consider retroactive reimbursement of an association for actual tuition costs, excluding fees, paid for a student. A total of \$625,000 has been appropriated from the Education Trust Fund to ACCS for this program since Fiscal Year 2019.

Additionally, beginning in Fiscal Year 2024, this bill would require that tuition reimbursement would be divided equally among students for volunteer fire departments, rescue squads, and ambulance services based on available appropriations. Further, beginning Fiscal Year 2025, any unexpended funds in excess of \$500,000 would be transferred to the Alabama Fire College to provide emergency medical service equipment and operations grants to volunteer fire departments and rescue squads. According to ACCS, the current balance of the program fund is \$519,142.

This bill could also decrease potential obligations of the program by an undetermined amount dependent on reimbursements that would no longer be paid for costs covered by grants or other monetary awards, as provided by this bill.



This bill could also increase receipts to the Alabama Community College System, the University of South Alabama, and the Alabama Fire College, by an estimated \$10,000 annually, cumulatively, by increasing the allowable operational expenses of the program from 2% of the annual funding for the program, under current law, to 10%.