

# HB388 INTRODUCED



1 93VRMM-1  
2 By Representatives Mooney, Gray  
3 RFD: Ways and Means Education  
4 First Read: 25-Apr-23  
5  
6 2023 Regular Session



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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, the Alabama Board of Athletic Trainers oversees the licensure of athletic trainers.

This bill would create the Athletic Trainer Secondary School Incentive Program, administered by the board, to incentivize the recruitment and retention of athletic trainers in rural and Title I secondary schools.

This bill would allow the board to adopt rules relating to the administration of the program, and to award grants to qualifying local boards of education, and would cap the total amount of stipends that may be awarded per school year.

This bill would allow a local board of education to apply for a grant if certain criteria are met.

This bill would require grants awarded to local boards of education to be issued as stipends to athletic trainers who provide the required athletic training services.

This bill would also limit each secondary school to one grant per school year, and each athletic trainer to one stipend per school year, and provide that if more than one athletic trainer provided athletic training services to a school, that any grant be



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29 divided among them.

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A BILL

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TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

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Relating to athletic trainers; to create the Athletic Trainer Secondary School Incentive Program; to provide grants to local boards of education that meet certain requirements related to the use of athletic trainers in rural and Title I secondary schools; to authorize the Alabama Board of Athletic Trainers to adopt rules to administer the incentive program and the grant application process; to require grants issued from the incentive program to be provided as stipends to qualifying athletic trainers; and to limit each secondary school and athletic trainer to one grant per school year.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

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(1) ATHLETIC TRAINER. The same meaning as the term "athletic training practice," as defined by Section 34-40-2, Code of Alabama 1975. This term includes after school sporting event coverage.

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(2) ATHLETIC TRAINING SERVICES. Services provided by an athletic trainer within the scope of athletic training practice, as defined by Section 34-40-2, Code of Alabama 1975.

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57 This term includes coverage provided to an after school  
58 sporting event.

59 (3) BOARD. The Alabama Board of Athletic Trainers, as  
60 provided in Chapter 40 of Title 34 of the Code of Alabama  
61 1975.

62 (4) INCENTIVE PROGRAM. The Athletic Trainer Secondary  
63 School Incentive Program established by this act.

64 (5) RURAL SCHOOL. A school not located within a United  
65 States Census Bureau Alabama Urbanized Area of 50,000 or more  
66 individuals.

67 (6) SECONDARY SCHOOL. Any school providing education to  
68 students in sixth through twelfth grade. This term includes  
69 middle schools and high schools.

70 Section 2. (a) There is established the Athletic  
71 Trainer Secondary School Incentive Program. The program shall  
72 be administered by the board.

73 (b) The board shall award funds to local boards of  
74 education to incentivize the recruitment and retention of  
75 athletic trainers at rural secondary schools and Title I  
76 secondary schools in the state. The board shall allocate grant  
77 awards to the applicable local board of education for each  
78 successful application that meets the requirements of this  
79 act. Each grant shall be no more than seven thousand five  
80 hundred dollars (\$7,500), as determined by the board based on  
81 the application.

82 (c) The incentive program shall be capped at two  
83 million dollars (\$2,000,000) per school year.

84 (d) Grants may be awarded annually beginning with the



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85 2024-2025 school year, and each school year thereafter.

86 (e) The grants provided by this act shall be contingent  
87 on the availability of funds. The Legislature may appropriate  
88 funds to the board for the incentive program, and the board  
89 may accept funds from nongovernmental entities to be used for  
90 the incentive program. Any monies appropriated shall be  
91 budgeted and allotted pursuant to the Budget Management Act in  
92 accordance with Article 4, commencing with Section 41-4-80 of  
93 Chapter 4 of Title 41, Code of Alabama 1975, and only in the  
94 amounts provided by the Legislature in the general  
95 appropriations act or other appropriations act. Funds not  
96 expended in any fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain  
97 with the board for use in implementing the incentive program.

98 Section 3. (a) A local board of education may apply for  
99 a grant from the incentive program if, during the academic  
100 school year, an athletic trainer provided an average of at  
101 least 25 hours of athletic training services per week to a  
102 rural secondary school or Title I secondary school under the  
103 purview of the local board of education. Any athletic training  
104 services provided by an athletic trainer may be counted  
105 towards the required hours, provided that the athletic trainer  
106 provides the athletic training services in one of the  
107 following manners:

- 108 (1) As an employee of the local board of education.  
109 (2) As an employee of a health care facility.  
110 (3) As a participant in a third-party sports medicine  
111 program.

112 (b) (1) The board shall compile a list of schools



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113 eligible for grants from the incentive program and publish the  
114 list on its website. The list shall be compiled in the  
115 following manner:

116           a. For rural secondary schools, by considering census  
117 data to determine which secondary schools are not located in  
118 urbanized areas of 50,000 or more individuals.

119           b. For Title I secondary schools, by considering  
120 federal law.

121           (2) Local boards of education meeting the application  
122 criteria may apply for the incentive program following the end  
123 of the academic school year, during a time period to be  
124 determined by the board.

125           Section 4. (a) The board shall develop an application  
126 form and adopt procedures for the administration of the  
127 incentive program application, including for the development  
128 of application criteria and a timeline for application review  
129 and grant disbursement.

130           (b) (1) The local superintendent of education shall  
131 provide an attestation that all requirements for the incentive  
132 program have been satisfied, and each athletic trainer seeking  
133 to benefit from the incentive program shall provide an  
134 attestation that he or she has provided at least 25 hours of  
135 athletic training services to a rural secondary school or  
136 Title I secondary school under the local board of education's  
137 purview.

138           (2) The board may take disciplinary action against an  
139 athletic trainer who falsifies the amount of athletic training  
140 services he or she provided.



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141           Section 5. (a) Upon the receipt of a grant from the  
142 incentive program, the local board of education shall  
143 distribute the grant funds as a stipend to the qualifying  
144 athletic trainer.

145           (1) If multiple athletic trainers provided an average  
146 of at least 25 hours of athletic training services per week to  
147 a secondary school during the academic school year, the local  
148 board of education shall evenly divide the funds from the  
149 incentive program among the athletic trainers.

150           (2) An athletic trainer may only receive one stipend  
151 from the incentive program per school year. Once an athletic  
152 trainer is awarded a stipend pursuant to this act, he or she  
153 shall not be eligible for another incentive program stipend  
154 until the next school year, even if he or she provided  
155 athletic training services to multiple schools.

156           (b) The local board of education is limited to one  
157 successful grant application per secondary school each school  
158 year.

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