

SB267 ENGROSSED



1 4Z2P3R-2
2 By Senator Chesteen
3 RFD: Finance and Taxation Education
4 First Read: 27-Apr-23
5
6 2023 Regular Session



SB267 Engrossed

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A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

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, 1A, 2A, 3A, 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.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

(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.

(2) ATHLETIC TRAINING SERVICES. Services provided by an athletic trainer within the scope of athletic training



SB267 Engrossed

29 practice, as defined by Section 34-40-2, Code of Alabama 1975.
30 This term includes coverage provided to an after school
31 sporting event.

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

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

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

40 (6) SECONDARY SCHOOL. Any rural, 1A, 2A, 3A, or Title I
41 schools providing education to students in sixth through
42 twelfth grade. This term includes middle schools and high
43 schools.

44 Section 2. (a) There is established the Athletic
45 Trainer Secondary School Incentive Program. The program shall
46 be administered by the board.

47 (b) The board shall award funds to local boards of
48 education to incentivize the recruitment and retention of
49 athletic trainers at rural secondary schools and Title I
50 secondary schools in the state. The board shall allocate grant
51 awards to the applicable local board of education for each
52 successful application that meets the requirements of this
53 act. Each grant shall be no more than seven thousand five
54 hundred dollars (\$7,500), as determined by the board based on
55 the application.

56 (c) The incentive program shall be capped at two



SB267 Engrossed

57 million dollars (\$2,000,000) per school year.

58 (d) Grants may be awarded annually beginning with the
59 2024-2025 school year, and each school year thereafter.

60 (e) The grants provided by this act shall be contingent
61 on the availability of funds. The Legislature may appropriate
62 funds to the board for the incentive program, and the board
63 may accept funds from nongovernmental entities to be used for
64 the incentive program. Any monies appropriated shall be
65 budgeted and allotted pursuant to the Budget Management Act in
66 accordance with Article 4, commencing with Section 41-4-80 of
67 Chapter 4 of Title 41, Code of Alabama 1975, and only in the
68 amounts provided by the Legislature in the general
69 appropriations act or other appropriations act. Funds not
70 expended in any fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain
71 with the board for use in implementing the incentive program.

72 Section 3. (a) A local board of education may apply for
73 a grant from the incentive program if, during the academic
74 school year, an athletic trainer provided an average of at
75 least 25 hours of athletic training services per week to a
76 rural secondary school or Title I secondary school under the
77 purview of the local board of education. Any athletic training
78 services provided by an athletic trainer may be counted
79 towards the required hours, provided that the athletic trainer
80 provides the athletic training services in one of the
81 following manners:

82 (1) As an employee of the local board of education.

83 (2) As an employee of a health care facility.

84 (3) As a participant in a third-party sports medicine



SB267 Engrossed

85 program.

86 (b) (1) The board shall compile a list of schools
87 eligible for grants from the incentive program and publish the
88 list on its website. The list shall be compiled in the
89 following manner:

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

93 b. For Title I secondary schools, by considering
94 federal law.

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

99 Section 4. (a) The board shall develop an application
100 form and adopt procedures for the administration of the
101 incentive program application, including for the development
102 of application criteria and a timeline for application review
103 and grant disbursement.

104 (b) (1) The local superintendent of education shall
105 provide an attestation that all requirements for the incentive
106 program have been satisfied, and each athletic trainer seeking
107 to benefit from the incentive program shall provide an
108 attestation that he or she has provided at least 25 hours of
109 athletic training services to a rural secondary school or
110 Title I secondary school under the local board of education's
111 purview.

112 (2) The board may take disciplinary action against an



SB267 Engrossed

113 athletic trainer who falsifies the amount of athletic training
114 services he or she provided.

115 Section 5. (a) Upon the receipt of a grant from the
116 incentive program, the local board of education shall
117 distribute the grant funds as a stipend to the qualifying
118 athletic trainer.

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

124 (2) An athletic trainer may only receive one stipend
125 from the incentive program per school year. Once an athletic
126 trainer is awarded a stipend pursuant to this act, he or she
127 shall not be eligible for another incentive program stipend
128 until the next school year, even if he or she provided
129 athletic training services to multiple schools.

130 (b) The local board of education is limited to one
131 successful grant application per secondary school each school
132 year.

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

SB267 Engrossed



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138 Senate

139 Read for the first time and referred27-Apr-23
140 to the Senate committee on Finance
141 and Taxation Education
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143 Read for the second time and placed03-May-23
144 on the calendar:
145 1 amendment
146
147 Read for the third time and passed04-May-23
148 as amended
149 Yeas 34
150 Nays 0
151 Abstains 0
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Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

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