

HB288 ENROLLED



1 HB288
2 F9RTDCD-3
3 By Representatives Mooney, Gray, Tillman, Woods
4 RFD: Education Policy
5 First Read: 13-Feb-25



HB288 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

2
3 Relating to Alabama Commission on Higher Education; to
4 add Article 5 to Chapter 5 of Title 16, Code of Alabama 1975,
5 to authorize the commission to award loan assistance to
6 eligible athletic trainers through the Alabama Math and
7 Science Teacher Education Program (AMSTEP); and to require the
8 commission develop an accountability and evaluation plan.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

10 Section 1. Article 5 is added to Chapter 5 of Title 16
11 of the Code of Alabama 1975 to read as follows:

12 §16-5-100

13 For the purposes of this article, the following terms
14 have the following meanings:

15 (1) APPROVED DEGREE. A completed master's degree
16 recognized by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic
17 Training Education for an athletic training program through
18 which students become eligible for an approved degree.

19 (2) APPROVED INSTITUTION. A public or private nonprofit
20 institution of higher education that satisfies both of the
21 following:

22 a. Is accredited by the Southern Association of
23 Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges or by a nationally
24 recognized accrediting agency that provides the institution
25 with eligibility to receive Title IV federal student aid.

26 b. Is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of
27 Athletic Training Education for an athletic training program
28 through which students become eligible for national



HB288 Enrolled

certification upon successfully completing the Board of Certification, Inc. examination.

(3) ATHLETIC TRAINING SERVICES. Services provided by a licensed athletic trainer within the scope of athletic training practice pursuant to Chapter 40 of Title 34.

(4) CERTIFICATION. National recognition by successfully completing the Board of Certification, Inc. examination for athletic training.

(5) CHARTER SCHOOL. A public K-12 school established pursuant to Chapter 6F.

(6) COMMISSION. The Alabama Commission on Higher Education.

(7) ELIGIBLE APPLICANT. An individual who satisfies the criteria set out in this article and is eligible under rules adopted by the commission in consultation with the Alabama Board of Athletic Trainers.

(8) LICENSED ATHLETIC TRAINER. A healthcare professional who is legally authorized to perform athletic training services within this state upon satisfying all of the following requirements:

a. Graduated from an approved athletic training program at the master's degree level from an approved institution.

b. Passed the Board of Certification, Inc. examination.

c. Holds a valid license from the Alabama Board of Athletic Trainers that verifies the individual meets state-specific requirements, including continuing education.

(9) LOAN ASSISTANCE SUPPORT. Financial assistance provided to a licensed athletic trainer who provides athletic



HB288 Enrolled

training services at a qualifying institution and has an outstanding federal student loan balance.

(10) PROGRAM. The Alabama Math and Science Teacher Education Program (AMSTEP), or any successor program, administered by the commission in consultation with the Alabama Board of Athletic Trainers.

(11) QUALIFYING INSTITUTION. A public K-12 school or school system in this state that requires athletic training services for sanctioned activities governed by an organization, including the Alabama High School Athletic Association or the Alabama Independent School Association.

(12) YEAR. The fall, spring, and summer semesters of an academic year of a qualifying institution.

§16-5-101

(a) This article shall be administered by the commission in consultation with the Alabama Board of Athletic Trainers.

(b) A percentage not to exceed 10 percent of any annual appropriations received by the program may be expended for the operation and administrative requirements provided in this article.

(c) The requirements of this article are contingent upon available funding for the program.

(d) The commission, in consultation with the Alabama Board of Athletic Trainers, may adopt rules for the administration and implementation of this article.

§16-5-102

(a) The commission may award loan assistance from the



HB288 Enrolled

85 program to eligible applicants.

86 (b) To be eligible for loan assistance of seven
87 thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500) per year worked or
88 three thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$3,750) per
89 semester worked, for a maximum of four consecutive years, an
90 applicant shall satisfy all of the following:

91 (1) Is a citizen or a lawful permanent resident of the
92 United States.

93 (2) Holds an approved degree from an approved
94 institution.

95 (3) Is licensed and in good standing with the Alabama
96 Board of Athletic Trainers pursuant to Chapter 40 of Title 34.

97 (4) Provides an average of at least 20 hours of
98 athletic training services per week at qualifying institutions
99 throughout the year in this state.

100 (5) Has outstanding subsidized or unsubsidized federal
101 student loans.

102 (6) Satisfies additional continuing eligibility
103 criteria established by the commission in consultation with
104 the Alabama Board of Athletic Trainers.

105 (7) Has not, nor intends to, receive a grant from the
106 Athletic Trainer Secondary School Incentive Program.

107 (c) Loan assistance awards shall be distributed
108 directly to eligible applicants in two disbursements during
109 the applicable year with one disbursement being made after
110 January 1 and the second disbursement being made after June 1.

111 (d) An eligible applicant shall notify the commission
112 in writing of any change in status within 30 days after the



HB288 Enrolled

change. Failure to notify the commission of a change in status shall affect future eligibility. A change in status includes all of the following:

(1) A change in name.

(2) A change in residence.

(3) A change in employment status.

(e) The commission shall inform an eligible applicant awarded loan assistance that loan assistance is considered income by the Internal Revenue Service.

(f) (1) The commission shall determine the necessary procedures for awarding loan assistance if an eligible applicants' total awards exceed available funding.

(2) The commission shall prioritize loan assistance to eligible educators prior to awarding loan assistance to eligible licensed athletic trainers.

§16-5-103

Any individual or institution not satisfied with the commission's actions in administering the program may submit a written petition to the commission within 30 days after notice of the action complained of. If the individual or institution is not satisfied with the commission's response, the individual or institution may request a rehearing within 20 days after the commission's response. The commission shall schedule the rehearing within 20 days after receiving the rehearing request. The individual or institution may present written and oral evidence supporting the petition and may be represented by counsel. The decision of the commission following the rehearing is final.



HB288 Enrolled

141 §16-5-104

142 (a) The commission shall develop an accountability and
143 evaluation plan for the program which does all of the
144 following:

145 (1) Identifies the goals, objectives, and expected
146 outputs and outcomes of the program.

147 (2) Describes the specific activities of the program
148 and how those activities will achieve expected outcomes.

149 (3) Defines the expected metrics of success and
150 provides a monitoring plan to regularly assess performance.

151 (4) Provides an evaluation plan to assess the impact of
152 expected outcomes.

153 (b) The department shall consult with the Alabama
154 Commission on the Evaluation of Services in the development of
155 the accountability and evaluation plan.

156 Section 2. This act shall become effective on August 1,
157 2025.



HB288 Enrolled

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and was passed by the House 01-Apr-25, as amended.

John Treadwell
Clerk

Senate	<hr/> 06-May-25 <hr/>	Amended and Passed
House	<hr/> 06-May-25 <hr/>	Concurred in Senate Amendment