



**House Ways and Means Education Reported Substitute  
for HB24**

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A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to emergency medical services personnel education; to amend Sections 22-18-60, 22-18-61, 22-18-62, and 22-18-64, Code of Alabama 1975, to further provide for the Volunteer Rescue Squad Tuition Reimbursement Program by authorizing the Alabama Department of Public Health, through its designated regional agencies of the Office of Emergency Medical Services, to provide education and receive tuition reimbursement under the program; and to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Sections 22-18-60, 22-18-61, 22-18-62, and 22-18-64, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

"§22-18-60

For the purposes of this article, the following terms ~~shall~~ have the following meanings:

- (1) ACCS. The Alabama Community College System.
- (2) AMBULANCE SERVICE. An ambulance service located in this state which is a member of the Alabama Association of



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29 Ambulance Services.

30 (3) ASSOCIATIONS. The Alabama Association of Rescue  
31 Squads, the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments,  
32 or the Alabama Association of Ambulance Services.

33 (4) DESIGNATED EMS REGIONAL AGENCY. A regional agency  
34 of the Office of Emergency Medical Services of the Alabama  
35 Department of Public Health which is designated by the  
36 department to offer educational courses to students.

37 (5) ELIGIBLE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION. A member school  
38 of the ACCS, the fire college, the University of South  
39 Alabama, or a designated regional EMS agency.

40 ~~(4)~~ (6) EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PERSONNEL (EMSP). All  
41 recognized levels of personnel licensed by the Alabama  
42 Department of Public Health, who have met all primary or  
43 renewal educational requirements, or both, set by the Alabama  
44 Department of Public Health, and who are allowed to provide  
45 medical care within the level of their scope of practice  
46 granted by the Office of Emergency Medical Services within the  
47 Alabama Department of Public Health.

48 ~~(5)~~ (7) FIRE COLLEGE. The Alabama Fire College.

49 ~~(6)~~ (8) STUDENT. A student enrolled in an emergency  
50 medical services certification program at ~~a member institution~~  
51 ~~of the ACCS, the fire college, or the University of South~~  
52 ~~Alabama~~ an eligible educational institution.

53 ~~(7)~~ (9) TUITION COSTS. Includes the actual cost of  
54 tuition and fees required to complete an approved  
55 ~~course~~ program of instruction for EMSP certification, as  
56 determined by each eligible educational institution.



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57           ~~(8)~~ (11) VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD. A volunteer rescue  
58 squad located in this state ~~and~~that is a member of the Alabama  
59 Association of Rescue Squads.

60           ~~(9)~~ (10) VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT. A volunteer fire  
61 department located in this state."

62           "§22-18-61

63           (a) ~~The ACCS, the fire college, and the University of~~  
64 ~~South Alabama~~Eligible educational institutions, in  
65 consultation with the associations, shall jointly develop and  
66 administer a student tuition reimbursement program for  
67 students who contract to provide two years of emergency  
68 medical services for volunteer rescue squads, volunteer fire  
69 departments, or ambulance services after becoming a licensed  
70 EMSP.

71           (b) (1) Tuition reimbursement under this article shall  
72 cover tuition costs paid by the student or the volunteer  
73 rescue squad, volunteer fire department, ambulance service, or  
74 association on behalf of the student of which the student is a  
75 member. Tuition paid by the volunteer rescue squad, volunteer  
76 fire department, ambulance service, or association shall be  
77 reimbursed directly to the volunteer rescue squad, volunteer  
78 fire department, ambulance service, or association.

79           (2) Tuition reimbursement under this article shall not  
80 include any tuition costs covered by grants or other monetary  
81 awards provided to a student including, but not limited to,  
82 federal education grants and scholarships, as determined by  
83 the ACCS.

84           (3) Tuition costs shall not be reimbursed until the



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85 student provides ACCS and the associations with documentation  
86 that he or she has successfully completed the approved  
87 ~~course~~program of instruction, proof of passing the  
88 certification exam, production of a valid EMSP license from  
89 the Alabama Department of Public Health, and a contractual  
90 agreement to comply with the service requirements.

91 (c) In the event that a tuition reimbursement  
92 recipient fails to meet the service requirements for any  
93 reason other than extreme hardship as defined within the joint  
94 agreement required in Section 22-18-64(b), the individual  
95 shall be deemed to have breached the underlying contract and  
96 shall be liable in the form of monetary damages to the state  
97 for the immediate repayment of the total tuition costs  
98 reimbursed, plus interest at the rate of eight percent. The  
99 associations shall notify ACCS of recipients who fail to meet  
100 the service requirements.

101 (d) Beginning with the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the  
102 amount of tuition reimbursement available to students shall be  
103 divided among volunteer fire departments, rescue squads, and  
104 ambulance services based on available appropriations ~~in~~  
105 compliance with the following standards:

106 (1) The ACCS shall create operational procedures to  
107 ensure that funds and volunteer service commitments are split  
108 equitably among volunteer fire departments, rescue squads, and  
109 ambulance services. Notwithstanding the foregoing, priority  
110 shall be given to volunteer fire departments, rescue squads,  
111 and nonprofit ambulance services.

112 (2) The Alabama Department of Public Health shall adopt



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113 a rule imposing a monetary cap on the amount of tuition costs  
 114 that may be reimbursed for students who complete the program  
 115 of instruction through a designated regional EMS agency, which  
 116 shall not exceed any cap in effect on the amount of reimbursed  
 117 tuition costs for the Alabama Fire College."

118 "§22-18-62

119 ~~Beginning October 1, 2018, the member~~ (a) Member  
 120 institutions of the ACCS, the ~~Fire College~~ fire college, ~~and~~  
 121 the University of South Alabama, and designated EMS regional  
 122 agencies may enter into contracts with new students seeking to  
 123 obtain certification as an EMSP.

124 (b) The Alabama Department of Public Health shall adopt  
 125 rules setting credentialing and accreditation standards for  
 126 private companies and instructors that teach courses on behalf  
 127 of the designated EMS regional agencies which are equal to the  
 128 standards of the other eligible education institutions."

129 "§22-18-64

130 (a) The ACCS shall annually report on the condition and  
 131 accomplishments of the tuition reimbursement program to the  
 132 Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, President  
 133 Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Chair of the House Ways and  
 134 Means Education Committee, the Chair of the Senate Finance and  
 135 Taxation Education Committee, and the Deputy Director of the  
 136 Legislative Services Agency, Fiscal Division. The report shall  
 137 include the number of students participating in the program  
 138 and the amount of tuition reimbursed for the reporting year.  
 139 ~~The member~~ Eligible educational institutions ~~of the ACCS, the~~  
 140 ~~fire college, and the University of South Alabama~~ shall



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141 provide this information to ACCS for inclusion in the annual  
142 report. The report shall be submitted by the fifth legislative  
143 day of each regular session of the Legislature.

144 (b) The ACCS, ~~the fire college, and the University of~~  
145 ~~South Alabama~~ shall enter into a joint agreement with the  
146 other eligible educational institutions to implement and  
147 administer the tuition reimbursement program, which shall  
148 include provisions for ensuring that operational expenses for  
149 the program in a fiscal year do not exceed 10 percent of the  
150 funding for the program in that fiscal year. The joint  
151 agreement shall provide for limiting the acceptance of  
152 applications for the program or limiting tuition  
153 reimbursements when necessary, or both.

154 (c) Any monies received for the operations of the  
155 tuition reimbursement program, including repayments, interest,  
156 and penalties paid because of failure to honor service  
157 requirements, shall be used to fund tuition reimbursements."

158 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October  
159 1, 2025.