

1 SB329
2 191040-1
3 By Senator Dial
4 RFD: Finance and Taxation Education
5 First Read: 22-FEB-18

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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would establish the Volunteer
9 Rescue Squad Tuition Reimbursement Act of 2018.

10 This bill would require the Alabama
11 Community College System and the Alabama Fire
12 College, in consultation with the Alabama Rescue
13 Squad Association, to develop and administer a
14 tuition reimbursement program for students that
15 successfully complete an Emergency Medical
16 Technician (EMT) or Paramedic certification program
17 offered by a member institution of the Alabama
18 Community College System or the Alabama Fire
19 College.

20 This bill would impose requirements for
21 participation in the program including service with
22 a volunteer rescue squad located in Alabama. This
23 bill would authorize appropriations from the
24 Education Trust Fund for the program.

25
26 A BILL
27 TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

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3 To establish the Volunteer Rescue Squad Tuition
4 Reimbursement Act of 2018; to require the Alabama Community
5 College System and the Alabama Fire College, in consultation
6 with the Alabama Rescue Squad Association, to develop and
7 administer a tuition reimbursement program for students that
8 successfully complete an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or
9 Paramedic certification program; to state that the program
10 shall be funded by direct appropriation from the Education
11 Trust Fund; and to impose requirements for participation in
12 the program including service with a volunteer rescue squad
13 located in Alabama for a certain period of time.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

17 (1) ACCS. The Alabama Community College System.

18 (2) ASSOCIATION. The Alabama Association of Rescue
19 Squads.

20 (3) COLLEGE. A member institution of the Alabama
21 Community College System or the Alabama Fire College.

22 (4) EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT). Means any
23 person 18 years of age or older who has successfully completed
24 the EMT course of instruction, or its equivalent, as approved
25 by a member institution or designee, who has passed the State
26 approved EMT certification exam, and who has been granted a

1 current, valid EMT license by the Alabama Department of Public
2 Health.

3 (5) EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN-ADVANCED
4 (EMT-ADVANCED). Means any person 18 years of age or older who
5 has successfully completed the 1985 EMT Advanced course of
6 instruction, or its equivalent, as approved by a member
7 institution or designee, who has passed the State approved
8 EMT-Advanced certification exam, and who has been granted a
9 current, valid EMT license by the Alabama Department of Public
10 Health.

11 (6) FIRE COLLEGE. The Alabama Fire College.

12 (7) PARAMEDIC. Means any person 18 years of age or
13 older who has successfully completed the 1985 Paramedic course
14 of instruction, or its equivalent, as approved by a member
15 institution or designee, who has passed the State approved
16 Paramedic certification exam, and who has been granted a
17 current, valid Paramedic license by the Alabama Department of
18 Public Health.

19 (8) SERVICE CONTRACT. A document signed by and
20 agreed to by the student and the association setting forth
21 terms of receiving tuition reimbursement and the service
22 requirement.

23 (9) STUDENT. A student enrolled in an EMT or
24 Paramedic certification program at a member institution of the
25 Alabama Community College System or the Alabama Fire College.

1 (10) VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD. A volunteer rescue
2 squad located in the state of Alabama and is a member of the
3 Alabama Association of Rescue Squads.

4 Section 2. (a) The Alabama Community College System
5 and the Alabama Fire College, in consultation with the
6 association, shall develop and administer a student tuition
7 reimbursement program for students that agree to provide
8 emergency medical services for volunteer rescue squads in
9 Alabama after becoming a licensed EMT or Paramedic, subject to
10 the following requirements:

11 (1) EMT OR EMT-Advanced. The student shall provide 3
12 years of service to a volunteer rescue squad.

13 (2) Paramedic. The student shall provide 5 years of
14 service to a volunteer rescue squad.

15 (b) Tuition reimbursement under this act shall be
16 the actual tuition costs paid by the student associated with
17 obtaining certification. Tuition costs shall not be reimbursed
18 until the student provides the association with documentation
19 that he or she has successfully completed the approved course
20 of instruction, and proof of passing the certification exam.

21 (c) In the event that a tuition reimbursement
22 recipient fails to meet the service requirements for any
23 reason other than extreme hardship as defined by the rules for
24 the program, the individual shall be liable for the immediate
25 repayment of the total tuition amount reimbursed, plus
26 interest at the rate of 8 percent.

1 Section 3. Beginning October 1, 2018 the ACCS and
2 the Alabama Fire College are authorized to enter into
3 contracts with new students seeking to obtain an EMT or
4 Paramedic certification.

5 Section 4. (a) The tuition reimbursement program
6 shall be funded by direct appropriation form the Education
7 Trust Fund.

8 (b) Any monies appropriated for the program that are
9 unexpended at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert, but
10 shall be carried forward for use of the program in the next
11 fiscal year. The Alabama Community College System and the
12 Alabama Fire College shall develop rules for ensuring that
13 expenses for the tuition reimbursement program in a fiscal
14 year do not exceed funding for the program in that fiscal
15 year. For that purpose, the Alabama Community College System
16 and Alabama Fire College may limit the acceptance of
17 applications for the tuition reimbursement program and may
18 limit tuition reimbursements.

19 Section 5. (a) The Alabama Community College System
20 and the Alabama Fire College shall annually report on the
21 condition and accomplishments of the tuition reimbursement
22 program to the Governor, Speaker of the House of
23 Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the
24 Deputy Director of the Legislative Services Agency-Fiscal
25 Division. The report shall include the number of students
26 participating in the program and the amount of tuition
27 reimbursed for the reporting year. The report shall be

1 submitted by the fifth legislative day of each regular session
2 of the Legislature.

3 (b) The Alabama Community College System and Alabama
4 Fire College shall adopt rules and regulations as necessary to
5 implement and administer the tuition reimbursement program

6 (c) Any monies received for the operations of the
7 tuition reimbursement program, including repayments, interest
8 and penalties paid because of failure to honor service
9 requirements, shall be used to fund tuition reimbursements.

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