

HB288 ENGROSSED



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



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A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to Alabama Commission on Higher Education; to add Article 5 to Chapter 5 of Title 16, Code of Alabama 1975, to authorize the commission to award loan assistance to eligible athletic trainers through the Alabama Math and Science Teacher Education Program (AMSTEP).

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

§16-5-100

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

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

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

a. Is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges or by a nationally

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29 recognized accrediting agency that provides the institution
30 with eligibility to receive Title IV federal student aid.

31 b. Is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of
32 Athletic Training Education for an athletic training program
33 through which students become eligible for national
34 certification upon successfully completing the Board of
35 Certification, Inc. examination.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

60 (9) LOAN ASSISTANCE SUPPORT. Financial assistance
61 provided to a licensed athletic trainer who provides athletic
62 training services at a qualifying institution and has an
63 outstanding federal student loan balance.

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

68 (11) QUALIFYING INSTITUTION. A public or private K-12
69 school or school system or two-year or four-year institution
70 of higher education in this state that requires athletic
71 training services for sanctioned activities governed by an
72 organization, including the Alabama High School Athletic
73 Association, the Alabama Independent School Association, the
74 Alabama Community College Conference, the National Collegiate
75 Athletic Association, the National Association of
76 Intercollegiate Athletics, or the National Intercollegiate
77 Rodeo Association.

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

80 §16-5-101

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

84 (b) A percentage not to exceed 10 percent of any annual

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85 appropriations received by the program may be expended for the
86 operation and administrative requirements provided in this
87 article.

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

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

93 §16-5-102

94 (a) The commission may award loan assistance from the
95 program to eligible applicants.

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

101 (1) Is a citizen or a lawful permanent resident of the
102 United States.

103 (2) Holds an approved degree from an approved
104 institution.

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

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

110 (5) Has outstanding subsidized or unsubsidized federal
111 student loans.

112 (6) Satisfies additional continuing eligibility



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criteria established by the commission in consultation with the Alabama Board of Athletic Trainers.

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

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

(d) To receive loan assistance, an eligible applicant shall register online with the Comptroller and verify his or her employment. An eligible applicant who receives loan assistance and remains employed shall continue to receive assistance for the four-year limit.

(e) An eligible applicant shall notify the commission in writing of any change in status within 30 days after the 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.

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

(g) (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



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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.

§16-5-104

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

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

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

(3) Defines the expected metrics of success shall be
and provide a monitoring plan to regularly assess performance.

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

(b) The department shall consult with the Alabama



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169 Commission on the Evaluation of Services in the development of
170 the accountability and evaluation plan.

171 Section 2. This act shall become effective on August 1,
172 2025.



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House of Representatives

176 Read for the first time and referred13-Feb-25
177 to the House of Representatives
178 committee on Education Policy
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180 Read for the second time and placed27-Feb-25
181 on the calendar:
182 0 amendments
183
184 Read for the third time and passed01-Apr-25
185 as amended
186 Yeas 67
187 Nays 29
188 Abstains 6
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John Treadwell
Clerk