

**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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5 A BILL  
6 TO BE ENTITLED  
7 AN ACT

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

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

17 §16-5-100

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

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

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

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



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.



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



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



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

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

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

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

126 (e) An eligible applicant shall notify the commission  
127 in writing of any change in status within 30 days after the  
128 change. Failure to notify the commission of a change in status  
129 shall affect future eligibility. A change in status includes  
130 all of the following:

131 (1) A change in name.

132 (2) A change in residence.

133 (3) A change in employment status.

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

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

140 (2) The commission shall prioritize loan assistance to



141 eligible educators prior to awarding loan assistance to  
142 eligible licensed athletic trainers.

143 **§16-5-103**

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

156 **§16-5-104**

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

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

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

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

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

168 (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 referred ..... 13-Feb-25  
177 to the House of Representatives  
178 committee on Education Policy  
179  
180 Read for the second time and placed ..... 27-Feb-25  
181 on the calendar:  
182 0 amendments  
183  
184 Read for the third time and passed ..... 01-Apr-25  
185 as amended  
186 Yeas 67  
187 Nays 29  
188 Abstains 6  
189  
190  
191 John Treadwell  
192 Clerk  
193