



FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 145

Committee: Fiscal Responsibility and
Economic Development

Sponsor: Senator Steve Livingston

Analyst: John Friedenreich

Date: 04/26/2023

Senate Bill 145 as reported by the Committee on Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Development amends the Volunteer Rescue Squad Tuition Reimbursement Act of 2018 to allow the following: (1) allow for the additional reimbursement of fees to complete an approved course; (2) reduce the service requirement of students from 3 to 2 years; (3) add ambulance services to the list of organizations that qualify for a student to complete meet their service requirement; (4) allow tuition and fee reimbursement to be paid to an association that funded a student, and clarify that no reimbursement would be paid for grants given to a student by another program; (5) allow an increase of operational expenses of the program from two percent to ten percent of the funding for the program each fiscal year; and (6) allow the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) to consider a retroactive reimbursement of actual tuition costs, excluding fees, to an association that was denied reimburse previously.

Additionally, beginning in Fiscal Year 2024, this bill would require tuition reimbursement be divided equally among students for volunteer fire departments, rescue squads, and ambulance services based on available appropriations. Further, beginning Fiscal Year 2025, any unexpended funds in excess of \$500,000 would be transferred to the Alabama Fire College to provide emergency medical service equipment and operational grants to volunteer fire departments and rescue squads.

These changes would increase the administrative obligations of the Alabama Community College System, the University of South Alabama and the Alabama Fire College, which would be offset by an additional \$10,000 annually in allowable operational expenses to administer the program. Additionally, it would increase the expenditures of the program by an undetermined



amount to reimburse both tuition and fees, and to allow reimbursement to be paid to an association. The current balance of the program fund is \$521,761.