

SENATE No. 2612

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**
—

SENATE, March 26, 2020.

The committee on Public Health to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1269) of Adam G. Hinds and Donald F. Humason, Jr. for legislation to support rural volunteer emergency medical technicians,- reports the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2612).

For the committee,
Joanne M. Comerford

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act to support rural volunteer emergency medical technicians.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 111C of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
2 following new section:-

3 Section 26. Student tuition reimbursement for rural volunteer EMTs

4 (a) For purposes of this section, the following words shall have the following meanings:

5 “Sponsoring EMS first responder agency”, a certified EMS provider in the
6 Commonwealth serving as a call or volunteer fire department, call or volunteer ambulance
7 department, or other volunteer EMS agency, operating in a service zone with a population
8 density of less than 500 residents per square mile as designated in a department-approved service
9 zone plan.

10 “Volunteer EMT”, a qualified EMT who does not receive monetary compensation for
11 providing emergency medical care through a sponsoring EMS first responder agency, except for

12 when compensation is received by the volunteer EMS first responder in the form of a stipend
13 from the sponsoring EMS first-responder agency.

14 (b) The department shall administer, subject to appropriation, a student tuition
15 reimbursement program for volunteer EMTs who successfully agree to provide emergency
16 medical services for not less than two successive years through or in association with a
17 sponsoring EMS first responder agency.

18 (c) Subject to approval by the department, a qualifying volunteer EMT who enters into an
19 agreement with the department to provide emergency medical services through or in association
20 with a sponsoring EMS first responder agency for two successive years shall receive student
21 tuition reimbursement from the department for having successfully completed an EMT training
22 course, approved by the department or offered by an accredited course sponsor, and who is
23 certified by the department, provided that the maximum tuition reimbursement received by the
24 volunteer EMT shall not exceed \$1,000 to cover the actual tuition costs paid by the student
25 associated with obtaining the certification.

26 (d) An applicant for student tuition reimbursement shall submit appropriate
27 documentation with the department for purposes of being eligible to receive student tuition
28 reimbursement, including, but not limited to: copies of original receipts or other documents
29 stating the actual tuition costs paid for by the applicant to enroll in an approved EMT training
30 course; documents indicating successful completion of an approved EMT training course; a copy
31 of EMT certification, issued by the department, indicating that the holder-applicant has met the
32 requirements for an EMT at a specified level of training; documentation from the sponsoring

33 EMS first responder agency indicating the applicant completed two successive years of service
34 as a volunteer EMT.

35 (e) An applicant approved for student tuition reimbursement may reapply for additional
36 student tuition reimbursement, so long as the individual successfully completes an additional two
37 years of successive service as a volunteer EMT in association with or through a sponsoring EMS
38 first responder agency and has completed service requirements for prior applications to receive
39 student tuition reimbursements, subject to student tuition reimbursement eligibility requirements
40 set forth in paragraphs (c) and (d).

41 (f) A recipient who fails to meet service requirements for any reason other than extreme
42 hardship shall be deemed as breaching the student tuition reimbursement agreement and is liable
43 for monetary damages to the state for immediate repayment of the total tuition amount
44 reimbursed plus interest at a monthly rate of five percent.

45 SECTION 2. The department of public health shall promulgate necessary rules and
46 regulations for purposes of implementing this act.