

**Adopted  
AMENDMENT NO 3 PROPOSED TO**

**Senate Bill No. 2371**

**BY: Representative Carpenter**

1           **AMEND** by inserting the following new sections as Sections 11  
2 through 15 immediately before the effective date section and  
3 renumbering the succeeding section:

4       "     **SECTION 11.** Sections 11 through 15 of this act shall be  
5 known and cited as the "Paramedics Recruitment and Retention  
6 Scholarship Grant Program Act."

7           **SECTION 12.** (1) The Legislature finds the following:

8                   (a) The public health crisis related to COVID-19  
9 resulted in a general disruption in the Mississippi economy and  
10 workforce, particularly in the healthcare industry.

11                   (b) COVID-19 and the closing of or reduction in  
12 services at rural hospitals created an unprecedented demand on  
13 emergency medical response providers.



14 (c) Consequently, the number of paramedics decreased in  
15 the State of Mississippi by approximately nineteen percent (19%).

16 (d) The lack of paramedics directly impacts all  
17 Mississippians ability to rely on quality emergency care.

18 (2) Therefore, the intent of the Legislature is:

19 (a) To provide funding to the Office of Workforce  
20 Development to establish a grant program for the purposes outlined  
21 herein.

22 (b) To provide funding for grants to cover the full  
23 cost of tuition, fees, books and any required uniforms for  
24 qualified applicants to attend an accredited paramedic program.

25 (c) To provide funding for grants to reimburse the cost  
26 of a qualified applicant's fee for the successful completion of  
27 the National Registry Paramedic cognitive and psychomotor  
28 examinations.

29 (d) To gauge the effectiveness of this program by  
30 gathering data related to the participation and employment  
31 outcomes in order to replicate successful efforts in future  
32 workforce development programs.

33 **SECTION 13.** (1) There is established the Paramedics  
34 Recruitment and Retention Scholarship Grant Program ("the  
35 program"). The grant program shall be used by the Office of  
36 Workforce Development, with the Mississippi Department of  
37 Employment Security acting as the fiscal agent, for the purpose of  
38 providing funding for grants to cover the full cost of tuition,



39 fees, books and any required uniforms for qualified applicants to  
40 attend an accredited paramedic program and to reimburse the cost  
41 of a qualified applicant's fee for the successful completion of  
42 the National Registry Paramedic cognitive and psychomotor  
43 examinations. The grant program shall be funded from monies  
44 appropriated by the Legislature for that purpose.

45 (2) For the purposes of Sections 11 through 15 of this act,  
46 a "paramedic" means a certified healthcare professional who  
47 specializes in providing emergency medical treatment to people who  
48 are injured or ill, typically in a setting outside of a hospital.

49 (3) The Office of Workforce Development shall prescribe the  
50 terms and conditions of grants awarded under the program. To  
51 qualify for a grant under this program, an applicant must:

52 (a) Be a certified Emergency Medical Technician (EMT);

53 (b) Have the necessary requisites for an accredited  
54 paramedic program;

55 (c) Commit to locate in the State of Mississippi for a  
56 minimum of three (3) years; and

57 (d) Meet any other conditions for receipt as prescribed  
58 by the Office of Workforce Development.

59 (4) The Office of Workforce Development may use a maximum of  
60 five percent (5%) of funds appropriated for the program for the  
61 administration of the program.



62           **SECTION 14.** The office shall enter into a grant contract  
63 agreement with each recipient of a grant under the program that  
64 incorporates the following obligations and conditions:

65           (a) The recipient of a grant shall commit to serving as  
66 a paramedic for three (3) continuous years in the State of  
67 Mississippi;

68           (b) If any recipient of a grant under the program does  
69 not engage in serving as a paramedic in accordance with the terms  
70 of Sections 11 through 15 of this act, the recipient shall be  
71 obligated to repay the grant amounts received, together with  
72 interest thereon at the maximum rate allowed by Mississippi law or  
73 the federal discount rate plus five percent (5%) per year,  
74 whichever is less, the interest to accrue from the date that each  
75 payment of funds was received by the recipient;

76           (c) No interest shall accrue and there shall be no  
77 obligation to repay the principal sums accrued during any one (1)  
78 period of time that the recipient involuntarily serves on active  
79 duty in the United States Armed Forces; and

80           (d) Repayment of the principal with interest shall be  
81 due and payable in full immediately on the occurrence of either of  
82 the following events:

83           (i) Failure to remain in the State of Mississippi  
84 for three (3) continuous years for any reason other than temporary  
85 personal illness; or



86 (ii) Failure to serve as a paramedic on a  
87 regularly sustained basis as provided in the eligibility  
88 requirements of Section 13 of this act.

89 **SECTION 15.** The Office of Workforce Development shall submit  
90 an annual report on the grant program to the Governor, the  
91 Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
92 the Chair of the House Workforce Development Committee and the  
93 Chair of the Senate Economic and Workforce Development Committee.  
94 The report shall contain a detailed explanation of how the funds  
95 appropriated for the program were awarded and how many paramedics  
96 have participated in the grant program and their employment  
97 outcomes.

98 **AMEND title to conform.**

