

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE BILL NO. 494

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR PEARCE.

Pre-filed December 1, 2013, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

4592S.011

## AN ACT

To repeal section 160.254, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to higher education.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Section 160.254, RSMo, is repealed and one new section  
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 160.254, to read as follows:

160.254. 1. There is hereby established a joint committee of the general  
2 assembly, which shall be known as the "Joint Committee on Education", which  
3 shall be composed of seven members of the senate and seven members of the  
4 house of representatives. The senate members of the committee shall be  
5 appointed by the president pro tem of the senate and the house members by the  
6 speaker of the house.

7 2. The committee shall meet at least twice a year. In the event of three  
8 consecutive absences on the part of any member, such member may be removed  
9 from the committee.

10 3. The committee shall select either a chairman or cochairmen, one of  
11 whom shall be a member of the senate and one a member of the house. A  
12 majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. Meetings of the committee  
13 may be called at such time and place as the chairman or chairmen designate.

14 4. The committee shall:

15 (1) Review and monitor the progress of education in the state's public  
16 schools and institutions of higher education;

17 (2) Receive reports from the commissioner of education concerning the  
18 public schools and from the commissioner of higher education concerning  
19 institutions of higher education;

**EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

- 20 (3) Conduct a study and analysis of the public school system;
- 21 (4) Make recommendations to the general assembly for legislative action;
- 22 (5) Conduct an in-depth study concerning all issues relating to the equity  
23 and adequacy of the distribution of state school aid, teachers' salaries, funding  
24 for school buildings, and overall funding levels for schools and any other  
25 education funding-related issues the committee deems relevant;
- 26 (6) Monitor the establishment of performance measures as required by  
27 section 173.1006 and report on their establishment to the governor and the  
28 general assembly;
- 29 (7) Conduct studies and analysis regarding:
- 30 (a) The higher education system, including financing public higher  
31 education and the provision of financial aid for higher education; and
- 32 (b) The feasibility of including students enrolled in proprietary schools,  
33 as that term is defined in section 173.600, in all state-based financial aid  
34 programs;
- 35 (8) Annually review the collection of information under section 173.093  
36 to facilitate a more accurate comparison of the actual costs at public and private  
37 higher education institutions;
- 38 (9) Within three years of August 28, 2007, review a new model for the  
39 funding of public higher education institutions upon submission of such model by  
40 the coordinating board for higher education;
- 41 (10) Within three years of August 28, 2007, review the impact of the  
42 higher education student funding act established in sections 173.1000 to  
43 173.1006;
- 44 (11) Beginning August 28, 2008, upon review, approve or deny any  
45 expenditures made by the commissioner of education pursuant to section 160.530,  
46 as provided in subsection 5 of section 160.530.
- 47 5. [During the legislative interim between the first regular session of the  
48 ninety-fifth general assembly through January 29, 2010, of the second regular  
49 session of the ninety-fifth general assembly, the joint committee on education  
50 shall study the issue of open enrollment for public school students across school  
51 district boundary lines in this state. In studying this issue, the joint committee  
52 may solicit input and information necessary to fulfill its obligation, including but  
53 not limited to soliciting input and information from any state department, state  
54 agency, school district, political subdivisions of this state, teachers, and the  
55 general public. The joint committee shall prepare a final report, together with

56 its recommendations for any legislative action deemed necessary for submission  
57 to the general assembly by December 31, 2009.] **By November 1, 2014, the**  
58 **committee shall conduct a study of the higher education academic**  
59 **scholarship program, the access Missouri financial assistance program,**  
60 **and the reimbursement portion of the A+ schools program. The study**  
61 **shall include, but not be limited to, eligibility requirements for each**  
62 **program, acceptance of aid by eligible students, and retention and**  
63 **graduation rates of recipients.**

64           6. The committee may make reasonable requests for staff assistance from  
65 the research and appropriations staffs of the house and senate and the committee  
66 on legislative research, as well as the department of elementary and secondary  
67 education, the department of higher education, the coordinating board for higher  
68 education, **public institutions of higher education**, the state tax commission,  
69 the department of economic development, all school districts and other political  
70 subdivisions of this state, teachers and teacher groups, business and other  
71 commercial interests and any other interested persons.

72           7. Members of the committee shall receive no compensation but may be  
73 reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses associated with the  
74 performance of their official duties.

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