

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 1396

## 101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE WINDHAM.

2612H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

### AN ACT

To repeal section 173.250, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to eligibility for the higher education academic scholarship program.

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

Section A. Section 173.250, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 173.250, to read as follows:

173.250. 1. There is hereby established a "Higher Education Academic Scholarship Program" and any moneys appropriated by the general assembly for this program shall be used to provide scholarships for Missouri citizens to attend a Missouri college or university of their choice pursuant to the provisions of this section.

2. The definitions of terms set forth in section 173.1102 shall be applicable to such terms as used in this section. In addition, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Academic scholarship", an amount of money paid by the state of Missouri to a student pursuant to the provisions of this section;

(2) "ACT", the American College Testing program examination;

(3) "Approved institution", an approved public or approved private institution as defined in section 173.1102;

(4) "Eligible student", an individual who meets the criteria set forth in section 173.1104, excluding the requirements of financial need and undergraduate status and, in addition, meets the following requirements:

(a) Has achieved a qualifying score on the ACT or SAT;

(b) Is a Missouri resident who has completed secondary coursework through graduation from high school or the virtual public school established in section 161.670, receipt of a general

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 education development (GED) diploma, completion of a program of study through  
19 homeschooling or any other program of academic instruction that satisfies the compulsory  
20 attendance requirement under section 167.031; ~~and]~~

21 (c) Is enrolled full time or accepted for full-time enrollment as a postsecondary student  
22 at an approved institution during the academic year immediately following the completion of ~~his~~  
23 ~~or her]~~ **the individual's** secondary coursework; **and**

24 **(d) For all academic years beginning on or after July 1, 2022, meets the following**  
25 **additional requirements:**

26 **a. Graduated from high school with an overall grade point average of at least two**  
27 **and three-fourths on a four-point scale, or the equivalent on another scale;**

28 **b. Performed at least fifty hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring, of which up to**  
29 **twenty-five percent may include job shadowing, prior to high school graduation; and**

30 **c. Maintains eligibility by completing a minimum of ninety percent of the clock**  
31 **hours required for the federal payment period for students enrolled full time in an eligible**  
32 **clock hour program;**

33 (5) "Missouri test-takers", all Missouri high school seniors who take the ACT or the  
34 SAT;

35 (6) "Qualifying score", a composite score on the ACT or the SAT achieved in an eligible  
36 student's high school sophomore, junior, or senior year that is in the top five percent of Missouri  
37 test-takers, as established at the beginning of an eligible student's final year of secondary  
38 coursework;

39 (7) "Recipient", an eligible or renewal student who receives an academic scholarship  
40 pursuant to this section;

41 (8) "Renewal student", an eligible student who remains in compliance with the  
42 provisions of section 173.1104, maintains continuous enrollment, and makes satisfactory  
43 academic degree progress; and

44 (9) "SAT", the Scholastic Aptitude Test.

45 3. The coordinating board for higher education shall be the administrative agency for the  
46 implementation of the program established by this section, and shall:

47 (1) Promulgate reasonable rules and regulations for the exercise of its functions and the  
48 effectuation of the purposes of this section, including regulations for granting scholarship  
49 deferments;

50 (2) Prescribe the form and the time and method of awarding academic scholarships, and  
51 shall supervise the processing thereof; and

52 (3) Select qualified recipients to receive academic scholarships, make such awards of  
53 academic scholarships to qualified recipients and determine the manner and method of payment  
54 to the recipient.

55 4. Eligible students shall be offered academic scholarships in the following amounts and  
56 in the following order of priority, within the limits of the funds appropriated and made available:

57 (1) Each eligible student with a qualifying score in the top three percent of all Missouri  
58 test-takers shall be offered an academic scholarship of up to three thousand dollars per year. All  
59 students in the top three percent shall receive awards of three thousand dollars before any student  
60 in the top fourth and fifth percentiles receives any award;

61 (2) Provided sufficient funds are appropriated, each eligible student with a qualifying  
62 score in the top fourth and fifth percentiles shall be offered an academic scholarship of up to one  
63 thousand dollars per year.

64 5. Eligible students may renew academic scholarships for their second, third, and fourth  
65 years of postsecondary education, or as long as the recipient is in compliance with the criteria  
66 to be a renewal student.

67 6. If an eligible student is unable to enroll during the first academic year or a renewal  
68 student ceases attendance at an approved institution for the purpose of providing service to a  
69 nonprofit organization, a state or federal government agency, or any branch of the Armed Forces  
70 of the United States, such student shall be offered an academic scholarship upon enrollment in  
71 any approved institution after the completion of their service, if the student meets all other  
72 requirements for an initial or renewal award and if the following criteria are met:

73 (1) For an eligible student who cannot attend an approved institution as a result of  
74 service to a nonprofit organization or the state or federal government, the student returns to full-  
75 time status within twenty-seven months and provides verification to the coordinating board for  
76 higher education that the service to the nonprofit organization was satisfactorily completed and  
77 was not compensated other than for expenses, or that the service to the state or federal  
78 government was satisfactorily completed; or

79 (2) For an eligible student who cannot attend an approved institution as a result of  
80 military service in the Armed Forces of the United States, the student returns to full-time status  
81 within six months after the eligible student first ceases service to the Armed Forces and provides  
82 verification to the coordinating board for higher education that the military service was  
83 satisfactorily completed.

84 7. A recipient of an academic scholarship awarded under this section may transfer from  
85 one approved institution to another without losing eligibility for the academic scholarship.

86 8. If a recipient of an academic scholarship at any time withdraws from an approved  
87 institution so that under the rules and regulations of that institution [~~he or she~~] **the recipient** is

88 entitled to a refund of any tuition, fees or other charges, the institution shall pay the portion of  
89 the refund attributable to the academic scholarship for that term to the coordinating board for  
90 higher education.

91 9. Other provisions of this section to the contrary notwithstanding, if an eligible student  
92 has been awarded an initial academic scholarship pursuant to the provisions of this section but  
93 is unable to attend an approved institution during the first academic year because of illness,  
94 disability, pregnancy or other medical need or if a renewal student ceases all attendance at an  
95 approved institution because of illness, disability, pregnancy or other medical need, the recipient  
96 shall be eligible for an initial or renewal academic scholarship upon enrollment in or return to  
97 any approved institution, provided the recipient:

98 (1) Enrolls in or returns to full-time status within twenty-seven months;

99 (2) Provides verification in compliance with coordinating board for higher education  
100 rules of sufficient medical evidence documenting an illness, disability, pregnancy or other  
101 medical need of such person to require that that person will not be able to use the academic  
102 scholarship during the time period for which it was originally offered; and

103 (3) Meets all other requirements established for eligibility to receive an academic  
104 scholarship.

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