

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 2492

## 101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE FITZWATER.

5158H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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### AN ACT

To repeal sections 160.2700 and 160.2705, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to adult high schools.

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

Section A. Sections 160.2700 and 160.2705, RSMo, are repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 160.2700 and 160.2705, to read as follows:

160.2700. For purposes of sections 160.2700 to 160.2725, "adult high school" means a school that:

(1) Is for individuals who do not have a high school diploma and who are twenty-one years of age or older;

(2) Offers an industry certification program or programs and a high school diploma in a manner that allows students to earn a diploma at the same time that they earn an industry certification;

(3) Offers ~~on-site~~ child care for children of enrolled students attending the school; and

(4) Is not eligible to receive funding under section 160.415 or 163.031.

160.2705. 1. The department of elementary and secondary education shall authorize before January 1, 2018, a Missouri-based nonprofit organization meeting the criteria under subsection 2 of this section to establish and operate four adult high schools, with:

(1) One adult high school to be located in a city not within a county;

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.

5 (2) One adult high school to be located in a county of the third classification without a  
6 township form of government and with more than forty-one thousand but fewer than forty-  
7 five thousand inhabitants or a county contiguous to that county;

8 (3) One adult high school to be located in a county of the first classification with  
9 more than two hundred sixty thousand but fewer than three hundred thousand inhabitants or a  
10 county contiguous to that county; and

11 (4) One adult high school to be located in a county of the first classification with  
12 more than one hundred fifty thousand but fewer than two hundred thousand inhabitants.

13 2. The department of elementary and secondary education shall grant the  
14 authorization described under subsection 1 of this section based on a bid process  
15 conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations governing purchasing through the  
16 office of administration. The successful bidder shall:

17 (1) Demonstrate the ability to establish, within twenty-one months of the receipt of  
18 the authorization, four adult high schools offering high school diplomas, an industry  
19 certification program or programs, and ~~[on-site]~~ child care for children of the students  
20 attending the high schools;

21 (2) Commit at least two million dollars in investment for the purpose of establishing  
22 the necessary infrastructure to operate four adult high schools;

23 (3) Demonstrate substantial and positive experience in providing services, including  
24 industry certifications and job placement services, to adults twenty-one years of age or older  
25 whose educational and training opportunities have been limited by educational disadvantages,  
26 disabilities, homelessness, criminal history, or similar circumstances;

27 (4) Establish a partnership with a state-supported postsecondary education institution  
28 or more than one such partnership, if a partnership or partnerships are necessary in order to  
29 meet the requirements for an adult high school;

30 (5) Establish a comprehensive plan that sets forth how the adult high schools will help  
31 address the need for a sufficiently trained workforce in the surrounding region for each adult  
32 high school;

33 (6) Establish partnerships and strategies for engaging the community and business  
34 leaders in carrying out the goals of each adult high school;

35 (7) Establish the ability to meet quality standards through certified teachers and  
36 programs that support each student in ~~[his or her]~~ **such student's** goal to find a more  
37 rewarding job;

38 (8) Establish a plan for assisting students in overcoming barriers to educational  
39 success including, but not limited to, educational disadvantages, homelessness, criminal  
40 history, disability, including learning disability such as dyslexia, and similar circumstances;

41 (9) Establish a process for determining outcomes of the adult high school, including  
42 outcomes related to a student's ability to find a more rewarding job through the attainment of  
43 a high school diploma and job training and certification; and

44 (10) Bids shall not include an administrative fee greater than ten percent.

45 3. (1) The department of elementary and secondary education shall establish  
46 academic requirements for students to obtain high school diplomas.

47 (2) Requirements for a high school diploma shall be based on an adult student's prior  
48 high school achievement and the remaining credits and coursework that would be necessary  
49 for the student to receive a high school diploma if ~~[he or she]~~ **such student** were in a  
50 traditional high school setting. The adult student shall meet the requirements with the same  
51 level of academic rigor as would otherwise be necessary to attain such credits.

52 (3) The adult high school authorized under this section shall award high school  
53 diplomas to students who successfully meet the established academic requirements. The  
54 adult high school authorized under this section shall confer the diploma as though the student  
55 earned the diploma at a traditional high school. The diploma shall have no differentiating  
56 marks, titles, or other symbols.

57 (4) Students at adult high schools may complete required coursework at their own  
58 pace and as available through the adult high school. They shall not be required to satisfy any  
59 specific number of class minutes. The adult high school may also make classes available to  
60 students online as may be appropriate. However, students shall not complete the majority of  
61 instruction of the school's curriculum online or through remote instruction. **For the purposes**  
62 **of this subsection, synchronous instruction connecting students to a live class conducted**  
63 **in a Missouri adult high school shall be treated the same as in-person instruction.**

64 (5) The department of elementary and secondary education shall not create additional  
65 regulations or burdens on the adult high school or the students attending the adult high  
66 schools beyond certifying necessary credits and ensuring that students have sufficiently  
67 mastered the subject matter to make them eligible for credit.

68 **4. An adult high school shall be deemed a "secondary school system" for the**  
69 **purposes of subdivision (15) of subsection 1 of section 210.211.**

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