

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 696

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE HICKS.

1672H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 173.670, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) initiative.

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

Section A. Section 173.670, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 173.670, to read as follows:

173.670. 1. There is hereby established within the department of higher education the "Missouri Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Initiative". The department of higher education may award matching funds through this initiative to public institutions of higher education as part of the annual appropriations process.

2. The purpose of the initiative shall be to provide support to increase interest among elementary, secondary, and university students in fields of study related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and to increase the number of Missouri graduates in these fields at Missouri's public two- and four-year institutions of higher education.

3. **As used in this section, the following terms mean:**

(1) **"Educational benefits", the funds provided by an employer to a qualified individual or to an accredited educational institution for a period of up to five years to pay any portion of the tuition or fees for a qualified individual pursuing an advanced certificate, associate's degree, bachelor's degree, master's degree, or doctorate degree in a field of study related to health care, engineering, or information technology;**

(2) **"Full-time position", an occupation lasting at least one year that consists of at least thirty hours of work per week;**

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.

17 (3) "Internship", a program lasting at least eight weeks that consists of at least
18 fifteen hours of work per week;

19 (4) "State tax liability", any liability incurred by a taxpayer under the provisions
20 of chapter 143, excluding withholding tax imposed by sections 143.191 to 143.265, or the
21 tax imposed in chapter 147, 148, or 153;

22 (5) "STEM field", a field involving science, technology, engineering, or
23 mathematics.

24 4. There is hereby created a "Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Fund",
25 which shall consist of money collected under this section. The state treasurer shall be custodian
26 of the fund and may approve disbursements from the fund in accordance with sections 30.170
27 and 30.180. Upon appropriation, money in the fund shall be used solely for the administration
28 of this section. Any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to
29 the credit of the general revenue fund. The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the
30 same manner as other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments
31 shall be credited to the fund.

32 ~~[4-]~~ 5. As part of the initiative, the department of higher education shall develop a
33 process to award grants to Missouri public two- and four-year institutions of higher education
34 and school districts that have entered into articulation agreements to offer information
35 technology certification through technical course work leading to postsecondary academic credit
36 through the program established in section 173.675.

37 ~~[5-]~~ 6. The general assembly may appropriate funds to the science, technology,
38 engineering~~[,]~~ and mathematics fund to match institution funds to support the following
39 programs, **as recommended by the department of higher education:**

40 (1) ~~[Endowed teaching professor programs, which provide funds to support faculty who
41 teach undergraduate courses in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics fields at public
42 institutions of higher education;~~

43 ~~———~~(2) Scholarship programs, which provide financial aid or loan forgiveness awards to
44 Missouri students who study in the science, technology, engineering, or mathematics fields or
45 who plan to enter the teaching field in Missouri with an emphasis on science, technology,
46 engineering, and mathematics areas; **and**

47 ~~[(3)]~~ (2) Experiential youth programs ~~[at public colleges or universities,]~~ designed to
48 provide Missouri middle school, junior high, and high school students with the opportunity to
49 experience science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields through camps or other
50 educational offerings~~[-]~~

51 ~~————(4) Career enhancement programs for current elementary and secondary teachers and~~
52 ~~professors at Missouri public and private colleges and universities in the science, technology,~~
53 ~~engineering, or mathematics fields to improve the quality of teaching].~~

54 **7. Any taxpayer in the state of Missouri who provides educational benefits or**
55 **selects a student majoring in a STEM field who is attending a two-year or four-year public**
56 **or private Missouri college or university for an internship located in the state of Missouri,**
57 **or who selects a student who recently graduated with a degree in a STEM field from any**
58 **two-year or four-year public or private Missouri college or university for a full-time**
59 **position in a STEM field located in the state of Missouri, may apply to have ten thousand**
60 **dollars of the taxpayer's state tax liability transferred from the general revenue fund and**
61 **placed in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fund established in**
62 **subsection 4 of this section, upon approval by the department of higher education and**
63 **appropriation by the general assembly. The department of higher education shall establish**
64 **a procedure for approving applications under this subsection. For purposes of this**
65 **subsection, the taxpayer's state tax liability shall be paid before a transfer under this**
66 **subsection occurs. The cumulative amount of taxes transferred to the science, technology,**
67 **engineering and mathematics fund under this subsection shall not exceed an annual total**
68 **of two hundred thousand dollars from all participating taxpayers in tax year 2020, with**
69 **such amount adjusted annually for inflation as determined by the Consumer Price Index**
70 **for all Urban Consumers for the United States as reported by the Bureau of Labor**
71 **Statistics, or its successor index. If a donation is made to the fund from a third party, that**
72 **donation shall not count towards such annual limit.**

73 **8. The department of higher education may promulgate all necessary rules and**
74 **regulations for the administration of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that**
75 **term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this**
76 **section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions**
77 **of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are**
78 **nonseverable, and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to**
79 **chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are**
80 **subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule**
81 **proposed or adopted after August 28, 2019, shall be invalid and void.**

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