

SENATE BILL NO. 1013

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ARTHUR.

4182S.02I

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

AN ACT

To repeal section 173.232, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to teacher recruitment and retention.

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

Section A. Section 173.232, RSMo, is repealed and one new
2 section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 173.232,
3 to read as follows:

173.232. 1. There is hereby established the "[Urban
2 Flight and Rural Needs] **Teacher Recruitment and Retention**
3 **State** Scholarship Program", which shall be administered by
4 the department of elementary and secondary education. The
5 program shall, upon appropriation, provide scholarships,
6 subject to the eligibility criteria enumerated in this
7 section, for eligible students who enter a teacher education
8 program and make a commitment to teach as a condition of
9 receiving such scholarship.

10 2. Subject to appropriation, each year the department
11 of elementary and secondary education shall make available
12 to eligible students [up to one hundred four-year urban
13 flight and rural needs] scholarships **for up to two years** in
14 an amount that encompasses **up to** one hundred percent of the
15 total cost of eligible students' tuition and fees at a four-
16 year college or university located in Missouri. **Funds may**
17 **be used for tuition, university-charged fees, and other**
18 **costs directly associated with teacher preparation, as**

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

19 **approved by the department.** Such amount shall be paid by
20 funds appropriated to the department. **The maximum number of**
21 **scholarships made available under this section shall be as**
22 **follows:**

23 (1) **For academic years ending before July 1, 2025, one**
24 **hundred;**

25 (2) **For the 2025-26 academic year, two hundred;**

26 (3) **For the 2026-27 academic year, two hundred twenty;**

27 (4) **For the 2027-28 academic year, two hundred forty;**

28 (5) **For the 2028-29 academic year, two hundred sixty;**

29 (6) **For the 2029-30 academic year, two hundred eighty;**

30 **and**

31 (7) **For the 2030-31 academic year and all subsequent**
32 **academic years, three hundred.**

33 3. As used in this section, the **[term]** following terms
34 **mean:**

35 (1) "Eligible student" **[shall mean]**, an individual who:

36 **[(1)] (a)** Is a United States citizen and a Missouri
37 resident **[who attended a Missouri high school];**

38 **[(2)] (b)** Enters and makes a commitment to pursue a
39 teacher education program approved by the department of
40 elementary and secondary education and offered by a four-
41 year college or university located in Missouri;

42 **[(3)] (c)** Signs an agreement with the department of
43 elementary and secondary education in which the recipient
44 agrees to **[teach]** **student teach at, apply for, interview**
45 **for, and accept a position, if offered,** in a Missouri public
46 school**[, the population of which includes a higher-than-**
47 **average "at-risk student population", as such term shall be**
48 **defined by the department of elementary and secondary**
49 **education,]** **that is a hard-to-staff school or to teach at**
50 **least one hard-to-staff subject area in a Missouri public**

51 **school that offers classes in hard-to-staff subject areas,**
52 **or both,** for two years for every one year the recipient
53 received the [urban flight and rural needs] scholarship;

54 [(4) Has graduated from high school with a cumulative
55 grade point average of at least two and one-half on a four-
56 point scale or equivalent;

57 (5)] (d) Maintains a cumulative grade point average of
58 at least two and one-half on a four-point scale or
59 equivalent; **and**

60 (e) **For scholarships awarded for any academic year**
61 **beginning after June 30, 2025, has made a good faith effort**
62 **to first secure all available federal sources of grant**
63 **funding that could be applied to the total cost of such**
64 **student's eligible tuition and fees as described in**
65 **subsection 2 of this section;**

66 (2) "Hard-to-staff schools", attendance centers where
67 the percentage of certificated positions in the attendance
68 center that were left vacant or were filled with a teacher
69 not fully qualified in the prior academic year exceeds five
70 percent as reported to the department of elementary and
71 secondary education;

72 (3) "Hard-to-staff subject areas", content areas for
73 which positions were left vacant or were filled with a
74 teacher not fully qualified in the prior academic year as
75 reported to the department of elementary and secondary
76 education.

77 4. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of
78 scholarships or revenues available, the department of
79 elementary and secondary education may consider the
80 financial needs of the applicant.

81 5. The scholarships provided in this section shall be
82 available to [otherwise] eligible students who [either:]

83 **have successfully completed forty-eight credit hours at an**
84 **institution of higher education.**

85 [(1) Are currently enrolled in a community college and
86 make a commitment to pursue a teacher education program
87 approved by the department of elementary and secondary
88 education and offered by a four-year college or university
89 located in Missouri; or

90 (2) Have completed their baccalaureate degree and
91 agree to enter a teacher education program and make a
92 commitment to pursue a teacher education program approved by
93 the department of elementary and secondary education and
94 offered by a four-year college or university located in
95 Missouri].

96 6. (1) Every eligible student receiving scholarships
97 under this section shall teach in an elementary or secondary
98 public school in Missouri as provided in **paragraph (c) of**
99 subdivision [(3)] (1) of subsection 3 of this section. The
100 student shall teach for a period of two years for every one
101 year [he or she] **such student** received [an urban flight and
102 rural needs] a scholarship **under this section**; otherwise,
103 the scholarship shall be treated as a loan to the eligible
104 student[, and interest at the rate of nine and one-half
105 percent per year]. **Interest** shall be charged on the unpaid
106 balance of the amount received from the date the eligible
107 student ceases to teach until the amount received is paid
108 back to the state. **The interest rate shall be adjusted**
109 **annually and shall be equal to one percentage point over the**
110 **prevailing United States prime rate in effect on January**
111 **first of such year.**

112 (2) In order to provide for the servicing of such
113 loans, the department of elementary and secondary education
114 may sell such loans to the higher education loan authority

115 of the state of Missouri created pursuant to sections
116 173.350 to 173.445. For each year the student teaches, up
117 to eight years, one-eighth of the amount received pursuant
118 to this section shall be applied against the total amount
119 received and shall not be subject to the repayment
120 requirement of this section; provided that twenty-five
121 percent of such amount, not subject to repayment, shall be
122 repaid by the local school district to the department.

123 **(3)** The department of elementary and secondary
124 education shall have the power to and shall defer interest
125 and principal payments under certain circumstances, which
126 shall include, but need not be limited to, the enrollment in
127 a graduate program or service in any branch of the Armed
128 Forces of the United States.

129 7. There is hereby established in the state treasury a
130 fund to be known as the "[Urban Flight and Rural Needs]
131 **Teacher Recruitment and Retention State** Scholarship Program
132 Fund", which shall consist of all moneys that may be
133 appropriated to it by the general assembly, and in addition
134 may include any gifts, contributions, grants, or bequests
135 received from federal, state, private, or other sources.
136 The fund shall be administered by the department of
137 elementary and secondary education. Notwithstanding the
138 provisions of section 33.080 to the contrary, moneys in the
139 fund shall not be transferred to the credit of the general
140 revenue fund at the end of the biennium. Interest and
141 moneys earned on the fund shall be credited to the fund.
142 Moneys in the fund shall be used solely for the purpose of
143 awarding scholarships under the provisions of this section.

144 **8. An individual who has qualified as an eligible**
145 **student under this section shall continue to qualify as an**
146 **eligible student for purposes of paragraph (c) of**

147 subdivision (1) of subsection 3 of this section as long as
148 such individual remains employed by the school district in
149 which such individual agrees to teach regardless of whether
150 such individual's employing school no longer qualifies as a
151 hard-to-staff school, such class taught by such individual
152 no longer qualifies as a hard-to-staff subject area, or such
153 individual's position within the school district changes.

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