

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 16

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ROMINE.

Pre-filed December 1, 2018, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

0715S.011

AN ACT

To amend chapter 173, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to workforce incentive grants.

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

Section A. Chapter 173, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 173.2553, to read as follows:

173.2553. 1. There is hereby established a "Fast-Track Workforce Incentive Grant" and any moneys appropriated by the general assembly for this program shall be used to provide grants for Missouri citizens to attend an approved Missouri postsecondary institution of their choice pursuant to the provisions of this section.

2. The definitions of terms set forth in section 137.1102 shall be applicable to such terms as used in this section. In addition, the following terms shall mean:

(1) "Eligible student", an individual who:

(a) Has completed and submitted a FAFSA for the academic year for which the grant is requested;

(b) Is a citizen or permanent resident of the United States;

(c) Is a Missouri resident as determined by reference to standards promulgated by the coordinating board;

(d) Is enrolled, or plans to enroll, at least half-time as a student in an eligible undergraduate program of study offered by an approved public, private, or virtual institution as defined in section 173.1102;

(e) Has an adjusted gross income, as reported on the FAFSA, that does not exceed eighty thousand dollars; and

(f) Is twenty-five years of age or older at the time of enrollment or has not been enrolled in an educational program for the prior two

22 academic years;

23 (2) "Eligible program of study":

24 (a) A program of instruction resulting in the award of a
25 certificate, degree, or other industry-recognized credential; and

26 (b) That has been designated by the coordinating board as
27 preparing students to enter an area of occupational shortage as
28 determined by the board;

29 (3) "FAFSA", the Free Application for Federal Student Aid as
30 maintained by the United States Department of Education.

31 3. Standards of eligibility for renewed assistance shall be the
32 same as for an initial award of financial assistance, except that for
33 renewal, an applicant shall demonstrate a grade-point average of two
34 and five-tenths on a four-point scale, or the equivalent on another
35 scale.

36 4. Eligibility for a grant expires upon the earliest of:

37 (1) Receipt of the grant for four semesters or the equivalent;

38 (2) Receipt of a bachelor degree; or

39 (3) Reaching two hundred percent of the time typically required
40 to complete the program of study.

41 5. The coordinating board shall initially designate eligible
42 programs of study by January 1, 2020. The coordinating board shall
43 annually review the list of eligible programs of study and make changes
44 to the program list as it determines appropriate.

45 6. The coordinating board shall be the administrative agency for
46 the implementation of the program established by this section. The
47 coordinating board shall promulgate reasonable rules and regulations
48 for the exercise of its functions and the effectuation of the purposes of
49 this section. It shall prescribe the form and the time and method of
50 filing applications and supervise the processing thereof. The
51 coordinating board shall determine the criteria for eligibility of
52 applicants and shall evaluate each applicant's eligibility. It shall select
53 qualified recipients to receive grants, make such awards of financial
54 assistance to qualified recipients, and determine the manner and
55 method of payment to the recipient.

56 7. The coordinating board shall determine eligibility for renewed
57 assistance on the basis of annual applications. As a condition to
58 consideration for initial or renewed assistance, the coordinating board

59 may require the applicant and the applicant's spouse to execute forms
60 of consent authorizing the director of revenue to compare financial
61 information submitted by the applicant with the Missouri individual
62 income tax returns of the applicant, the applicant's spouse and parents
63 for the taxable year immediately preceding the year for which
64 application is made, and to report any discrepancies to the
65 coordinating board.

66 8. Grants shall be awarded in an amount equal to the actual
67 tuition and general fees charged of an eligible student, after all federal
68 nonloan aid, state student aid, and any other governmental student
69 financial aid are applied. If a grant amount is reduced to zero due to
70 the receipt of other aid, the eligible student shall receive an award of
71 up to five hundred dollars or the remaining cost of attendance as
72 calculated by the institution after all nonloan student aid has been
73 applied, whichever is less, per academic term.

74 9. If appropriated funds are insufficient to fund the program as
75 described, students with the earliest FAFSA date shall be given priority
76 until all funds are expended.

77 10. A recipient of financial assistance may transfer from one
78 approved public, private, or virtual institution to another without
79 losing eligibility for assistance under this section, but the department
80 shall make any necessary adjustments in the amount of the award. If
81 a recipient of financial assistance at any time is entitled to a refund of
82 any tuition or fees under the rules and regulations of the institution in
83 which he or she is enrolled, the institution shall pay the portion of the
84 refund which may be attributed to the grant to the coordinating
85 board. The coordinating board shall use these refunds to make
86 additional awards under the provisions of this section.

87 11. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Fast-
88 Track Workforce Incentive Grant Fund". The state treasurer shall be
89 custodian of the fund. In accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180,
90 the state treasurer may approve disbursements. The fund shall be a
91 dedicated fund and money in the fund shall be used solely by the
92 coordinating board for the purpose of this section.

93 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the
94 contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium
95 shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue fund.

96 **(3) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the**
97 **same manner as other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys**
98 **earned on such investments shall be credited to the fund.**

99 **12. The coordinating board shall have the authority to**
100 **promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section. Any rule**
101 **or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010 that is**
102 **created under the authority delegated in this section shall become**
103 **effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the provisions**
104 **of chapter 536, and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and**
105 **chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the**
106 **general assembly pursuant to chapter 536, to review, to delay the**
107 **effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held**
108 **unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule**
109 **proposed or adopted after August 28, 2019, shall be invalid and void.**

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Bill

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