

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 16

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Reported from the Committee on Education, February 14, 2019, with recommendation that the Senate Committee Substitute do pass.

0715S.03C

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

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
2 section, to be known as section 173.2553, to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**18 (e) Has an adjusted gross income, as reported on the FAFSA, that
19 does not exceed eighty thousand dollars if the taxpayer's filing status
20 is married filing combined, or forty thousand dollars if the taxpayer's**

21 filing status is single, head of household, or qualifying widow or
22 widower; and

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

26 (2) "Eligible program of study":

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

29 (b) That has been designated by the coordinating board as
30 preparing students to enter an area of occupational shortage as
31 determined by the board;

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

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

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

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

41 (2) Receipt of a bachelor degree; or

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

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

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

58 method of payment to the recipient.

59 7. The coordinating board shall determine eligibility for renewed
60 assistance on the basis of annual applications. As a condition to
61 consideration for initial or renewed assistance, the coordinating board
62 may require the applicant and the applicant's spouse to execute forms
63 of consent authorizing the director of revenue to compare financial
64 information submitted by the applicant with the Missouri individual
65 income tax returns of the applicant, the applicant's spouse and parents
66 for the taxable year immediately preceding the year for which
67 application is made, and to report any discrepancies to the
68 coordinating board.

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

77 9. If appropriated funds are insufficient to fund the program as
78 described, students applying for renewed assistance shall be given
79 priority until all funds are expended.

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

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

95 coordinating board for the purpose of this section.

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

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

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

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