

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 329

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR NIEVES.

Read 1st time February 23, 2011, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

1620S.021

AN ACT

To repeal section 162.1250, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to virtual schools.

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

Section A. Section 162.1250, RSMo, is repealed and one new section
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 162.1250, to read as follows:

162.1250. 1. School districts shall receive state school funding under
2 sections 163.031, 163.043, and 163.087 for resident students who are enrolled in
3 the school district and who are taking a virtual course or full-time virtual
4 program offered by the school district. The school district may offer instruction
5 in a virtual setting using technology, intranet, and Internet methods of
6 communications that could take place outside of the regular school district
7 facility. The school district may develop a virtual program for any grade level,
8 kindergarten through twelfth grade, with the courses available in accordance with
9 district policy to any resident student of the district who is enrolled in the school
10 district. Nothing in this section shall preclude a private, parochial, or home
11 school student residing within a school district offering virtual courses or virtual
12 programs from enrolling in the school district in accordance with the combined
13 enrollment provisions of section 167.031 for the purposes of participating in the
14 virtual courses or virtual programs.

15 2. Charter schools shall receive state school funding under section 160.415
16 for students enrolled in the charter school who are completing a virtual course or
17 full-time virtual program offered by the charter school. Charter schools may offer
18 instruction in a virtual setting using technology, intranet, and Internet methods
19 of communications. The charter school may develop a virtual program for any

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

20 grade level, kindergarten through twelfth grade, with the courses available in
21 accordance with school policy and the charter school's charter to any student
22 enrolled in the charter school.

23 3. For purposes of calculation and distribution of state school funding,
24 attendance of a student enrolled in a district or charter school virtual class shall
25 equal, upon course completion, ninety-four percent of the hours of attendance
26 possible for such class delivered in the nonvirtual program in the student's
27 resident district or charter school. Course completion shall be calculated in two
28 increments, fifty percent completion and one hundred percent completion, based
29 on the student's completion of defined assignments and assessments, with
30 distribution of state funding to a school district or charter school at each
31 increment equal to forty-seven percent of hours of attendance possible for such
32 course delivered in the nonvirtual program in a student's school district of
33 residence or charter school.

34 4. **Any student may enroll in a school district other than his or**
35 **her school district of residence or a charter school for the purpose of**
36 **attending virtual courses or programs. For purposes of this subsection,**
37 **"virtual resident students" shall mean nonresident students who enroll**
38 **in a school district or charter school for the purpose of attending**
39 **virtual courses or programs. School districts or charter schools may**
40 **enroll any virtual resident student. For purposes of calculation and**
41 **distribution of state school funding for virtual resident students, the**
42 **virtual resident student shall be included in the average daily**
43 **attendance of the student's school district of residence. The**
44 **department of elementary and secondary education shall pay the school**
45 **district or charter school providing such virtual education an amount**
46 **equal to eighty-five percent of the amount of its tuition fee for pupils**
47 **not entitled to free instruction or of the state adequacy target,**
48 **whichever is greater, but not to exceed one and twenty-five hundredths**
49 **times the state adequacy target for each enrolled virtual resident**
50 **student under section 163.031. If the average local tax effort per**
51 **average daily attendance of the residence district does not exceed**
52 **eighty-five percent of the amount paid to the school district or charter**
53 **school enrolling the virtual resident student, the department shall pay**
54 **for deposit to the general revenue fund of the state an amount equal to**
55 **ten percent of the amount of such local educational agency's tuition fee**

56 for pupils not entitled to free instruction or of the state adequacy
57 target, whichever is greater, for each such enrolled virtual resident
58 student. The department shall withhold from the school district of
59 residence an amount equal to the amount paid for such virtual
60 education plus the amount deposited to the general revenue fund of the
61 state.

62 5. In addition to those entities which may sponsor charter
63 schools under section 160.400, any institution of higher education with
64 its primary campus located in Missouri with an approved teacher
65 education program may sponsor virtual charter schools. Virtual
66 charter schools are charter schools and subject to all of the applicable
67 provisions of sections 160.400 to 160.420 and this section. Virtual
68 charter schools may only offer instruction in a virtual setting using
69 technology, intranet and internet methods of communication.

70 6. When courses are purchased from an outside vendor, the district or
71 charter school shall ensure that they are aligned with the show-me curriculum
72 standards and comply with state requirements for teacher certification. The state
73 board of education reserves the right to request information and materials
74 sufficient to evaluate the online course. Online classes should be considered like
75 any other class offered by the school district or charter school.

76 [5.] 7. Any school district or charter school that offers instruction in a
77 virtual setting, develops a virtual course or courses, or develops a virtual program
78 of instruction shall ensure that the following standards are satisfied:

79 (1) The virtual course or virtual program utilizes appropriate
80 content-specific tools and software;

81 (2) Orientation training is available for teachers, instructors, and students
82 as needed;

83 (3) Privacy policies are stated and made available to teachers, instructors,
84 and students;

85 (4) Academic integrity and Internet etiquette expectations regarding
86 lesson activities, discussions, electronic communications, and plagiarism are
87 stated to teachers, instructors, and students prior to the beginning of the virtual
88 course or virtual program;

89 (5) Computer system requirements, including hardware, web browser, and
90 software, are specified to participants;

91 (6) The virtual course or virtual program architecture, software, and

92 hardware permit the online teacher or instructor to add content, activities, and
93 assessments to extend learning opportunities;

94 (7) The virtual course or virtual program makes resources available by
95 alternative means, including but not limited to, video and podcasts;

96 (8) Resources and notes are available for teachers and instructors in
97 addition to assessment and assignment answers and explanations;

98 (9) Technical support and course management are available to the virtual
99 course or virtual program teacher and school coordinator;

100 (10) The virtual course or virtual program includes assignments, projects,
101 and assessments that are aligned with students' different visual, auditory, and
102 hands-on learning styles;

103 (11) The virtual course or virtual program demonstrates the ability to
104 effectively use and incorporate subject-specific and developmentally appropriate
105 software in an online learning module; and

106 (12) The virtual course or virtual program arranges media and content to
107 help transfer knowledge most effectively in the online environment.

108 [6.] 8. Any special school district shall count any student's completion of
109 a virtual course or program in the same manner as the district counts completion
110 of any other course or program for credit.

111 [7.] 9. A school district or charter school may contract with multiple
112 providers of virtual courses or virtual programs, provided they meet the criteria
113 for virtual courses or virtual programs under this section.

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