

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 360

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATORS HOSKINS AND EMERY.

Read 1st time January 25, 2017, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

1405S.01I

AN ACT

To repeal section 162.1250, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to virtual public 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Section A. Section 162.1250, RSMo, is repealed and one new section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. **As used in this section, the following terms mean:**

2 **(1) "Virtual resident student", a student who is enrolled in a**
3 **virtual public school of choice which is hosted by the student's district**
4 **of residence or a virtual public school of choice which is hosted by a**
5 **charter school in the student's district of residence;**

6 **(2) "Virtual transfer student", a student who is enrolled in a**
7 **virtual public school of choice which is neither housed in the student's**
8 **district of residence nor a charter school in the student's district of**
9 **residence.**

10 **2.** School districts shall receive state school funding under sections
11 163.031, 163.043, and 163.087 for resident students who are enrolled in the school
12 district and who are taking a virtual course or full-time virtual program offered
13 by the school district. The school district may offer instruction in a virtual
14 setting using technology, intranet, and internet methods of communications that
15 could take place outside of the regular school district facility. The school district
16 may develop a virtual program for any grade level, kindergarten through twelfth
17 grade, with the courses available in accordance with district policy to any
18 resident student of the district who is enrolled in the school district. Nothing in
19 this section shall preclude a private, parochial, or home school student residing

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

20 within a school district offering virtual courses or virtual programs from enrolling
21 in the school district in accordance with the combined enrollment provisions of
22 section 167.031 for the purposes of participating in the virtual courses or virtual
23 programs.

24 [2.] 3. Charter schools shall receive state school funding under section
25 160.415 for students enrolled in the charter school who are completing a virtual
26 course or full-time virtual program offered by the charter school. Charter schools
27 may offer instruction in a virtual setting using technology, intranet, and internet
28 methods of communications. The charter school may develop a virtual program
29 for any grade level, kindergarten through twelfth grade, with the courses
30 available in accordance with school policy and the charter school's charter to any
31 student enrolled in the charter school.

32 [3.] 4. For purposes of calculation and distribution of state school
33 funding, attendance of a student enrolled in a district or charter school virtual
34 class shall equal, upon course completion, ninety-four percent of the hours of
35 attendance possible for such class delivered in the nonvirtual program in the
36 student's resident district or charter school. **In the case of a student who is**
37 **a candidate for A+ tuition reimbursement and taking a virtual course**
38 **under this section, the school shall attribute no less than ninety-five**
39 **percent attendance to any such student who has completed such virtual**
40 **course.** Course completion shall be calculated in two increments, fifty percent
41 completion and one hundred percent completion, based on the student's
42 completion of defined assignments and assessments, with distribution of state
43 funding to a school district or charter school at each increment equal to
44 forty-seven **and one-half** percent of hours of attendance possible for such course
45 delivered in the nonvirtual program in a student's school district of residence or
46 charter school.

47 [4.] 5. (1) **Any accredited school district or charter school with**
48 **an annual performance report score of seventy percent or greater or a**
49 **charter school which is granted a waiver by the department of**
50 **elementary and secondary education is authorized to host a virtual**
51 **public school of choice for full-time kindergarten through twelfth grade**
52 **students if such district or school meets the following requirements:**

53 (a) **Uses a unified and sequential online curriculum;**

54 (b) **Allows students to learn at a flexible pace including**
55 **acceleration for advanced students and more time for students who**

56 need more time;

57 (c) Employs teachers certified by the state board of education to
58 oversee all instruction; and

59 (d) Develops an individualized learning plan for all students
60 designed by certified teachers and professional staff.

61 (2) Any student who is eligible to enroll in a school district or a
62 charter school is eligible to enroll in a virtual public school of choice.

63 (3) There shall be no change in calculation and distribution of
64 state school funding under subsection 4 of this section for a virtual
65 resident student.

66 (4) For purposes of calculation and distribution of state school
67 funding for virtual transfer students, any virtual transfer student shall
68 not be included in the average daily attendance of his or her school
69 district of residence. The department of elementary and secondary
70 education shall deduct from the state aid payment made to a virtual
71 transfer student's district of residence an amount equal to the amount
72 calculated under subsection 3 of section 161.670 and credit the same
73 amount to the virtual public school of choice.

74 (5) The department of elementary and secondary education shall
75 also transfer to the virtual public school any other federal or state aid
76 that the pupil's district of residence receives on account of such child.

77 (6) If the virtual public school of choice complies with the
78 provisions of paragraphs (a) through (d) of subdivision (1) of this
79 subsection, the department of elementary and secondary education
80 shall deduct from the state aid payment made to a virtual transfer
81 student's district of residence an amount equal to the state adequacy
82 target and credit the same to the virtual public school of choice. The
83 distribution of funds to the virtual public school of choice shall be
84 calculated in two increments, fifty percent completion and one hundred
85 percent completion, based on the student's completion of assignments
86 and assessments. The assignments and assessments of special
87 education students shall be set at levels appropriate to their abilities.

88 (7) No virtual transfer student shall be admitted to a virtual
89 public school of choice if admission of the student would cause the
90 amount deducted from the district of residence's state aid to exceed the
91 aggregate amount due to the school district as provided under
92 subsections 1 and 2 of section 163.031 and sections 163.043 and 163.087.

93 **(8) The department of elementary and secondary education shall**
94 **provide information it is furnished by virtual public schools of choice**
95 **offering courses or programs to virtual transfer students.**

96 **(9) For the purposes of this subsection, the state adequacy target**
97 **amount used shall be the amount as calculated under section 163.031**
98 **for the applicable fiscal year.**

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

105 **[5.] 7.** Any school district or charter school that offers instruction in a
106 virtual setting, develops a virtual course or courses, or develops a virtual program
107 of instruction shall ensure that the following standards are satisfied:

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

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

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

114 (4) Academic integrity and internet etiquette expectations regarding
115 lesson activities, discussions, electronic communications, and plagiarism are
116 stated to teachers, instructors, and students prior to the beginning of the virtual
117 course or virtual program;

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

120 (6) The virtual course or virtual program architecture, software, and
121 hardware permit the online teacher or instructor to add content, activities, and
122 assessments to extend learning opportunities;

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

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

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

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

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

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

137 [6.] 8. Any special school district shall count any student's completion of
138 a virtual course or program in the same manner as the district counts completion
139 of any other course or program for credit.

140 [7.] 9. A school district or charter school may contract with multiple
141 providers of virtual courses or virtual programs, provided they meet the criteria
142 for virtual courses or virtual programs under this section.

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Bill

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