

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 777

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR MUNZLINGER.

Pre-filed December 3, 2015, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

4901S.011

AN ACT

To repeal sections 173.1101, 173.1102, 173.1104, 173.1105, and 173.1107, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof five new sections relating to higher education financial aid.

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

Section A. Sections 173.1101, 173.1102, 173.1104, 173.1105, and 173.1107, RSMo, are repealed and five new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 173.1101, 173.1102, 173.1104, 173.1105, and 173.1107, to read as follows:

173.1101. The financial assistance program established under sections 173.1101 to 173.1107 shall be hereafter known as the "Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program". The coordinating board and all approved private, [and] public, **and virtual** institutions in this state shall refer to the financial assistance program established under sections 173.1101 to 173.1107 as the access Missouri student financial assistance program in their scholarship literature, provided that no institution shall be required to revise or amend any such literature to comply with this section prior to the date such literature would otherwise be revised, amended, reprinted or replaced in the ordinary course of such institution's business.

173.1102. As used in sections 173.1101 to 173.1107, unless the context requires otherwise, the following terms mean:

(1) "Academic year", the period from July first of any year through June thirtieth of the following year;

(2) "Approved private institution", a nonprofit institution, dedicated to educational purposes, located in Missouri which:

(a) Is operated privately under the control of an independent board and

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

8 not directly controlled or administered by any public agency or political
9 subdivision;

10 (b) Provides a postsecondary course of instruction at least six months in
11 length leading to or directly creditable toward a certificate or degree;

12 (c) Meets the standards for accreditation as determined by either the
13 Higher Learning Commission or by other accrediting bodies recognized by the
14 United States Department of Education or by utilizing accreditation standards
15 applicable to nondegree-granting institutions as established by the coordinating
16 board for higher education;

17 (d) Does not discriminate in the hiring of administrators, faculty and staff
18 or in the admission of students on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or
19 national origin and is in compliance with the Federal Civil Rights Acts of 1964
20 and 1968 and executive orders issued pursuant thereto. Sex discrimination as
21 used herein shall not apply to admission practices of institutions offering the
22 enrollment limited to one sex;

23 (e) Permits faculty members to select textbooks without influence or
24 pressure by any religious or sectarian source;

25 (3) "Approved public institution", an educational institution located in
26 Missouri which:

27 (a) Is directly controlled or administered by a public agency or political
28 subdivision;

29 (b) Receives appropriations directly or indirectly from the general
30 assembly for operating expenses;

31 (c) Provides a postsecondary course of instruction at least six months in
32 length leading to or directly creditable toward a degree or certificate;

33 (d) Meets the standards for accreditation as determined by either the
34 Higher Learning Commission, or if a public community college created under the
35 provisions of sections 178.370 to 178.400 meets the standards established by the
36 coordinating board for higher education for such public community colleges, or by
37 other accrediting bodies recognized by the United States Department of Education
38 or by utilizing accreditation standards applicable to the institution as established
39 by the coordinating board for higher education;

40 (e) Does not discriminate in the hiring of administrators, faculty and staff
41 or in the admission of students on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or
42 national origin and is otherwise in compliance with the Federal Civil Rights Acts
43 of 1964 and 1968 and executive orders issued pursuant thereto;

44 (f) Permits faculty members to select textbooks without influence or
45 pressure by any religious or sectarian source;

46 (4) **"Approved virtual institution", an educational institution that**
47 **meets all of the following requirements:**

48 (a) **Is recognized as a qualifying institution by gubernatorial**
49 **executive order issued prior to August 28, 2016, and through a**
50 **memorandum of understanding between the state of Missouri and the**
51 **approved virtual institution;**

52 (b) **Is organized as a nonprofit institution;**

53 (c) **Is accredited by a regional accrediting agency recognized by**
54 **the United States Department of Education;**

55 (d) **Has established and continuously maintains a physical**
56 **campus or location of operation within the state of Missouri;**

57 (e) **Maintains at least twenty-five full-time Missouri employees,**
58 **at least one-half of which shall be faculty or administrators engaged in**
59 **Missouri operations;**

60 (f) **Enrolls at least one thousand Missouri residents as degree or**
61 **certificate seeking students; and**

62 (g) **Maintains a governing body or advisory board based in**
63 **Missouri with oversight of Missouri operations.**

64 (5) "Coordinating board", the coordinating board for higher education;

65 [(5)] (6) "Expected family contribution", the amount of money a student
66 and family should pay toward the cost of postsecondary education as calculated
67 by the United States Department of Education and reported on the student aid
68 report or the institutional student information record;

69 [(6)] (7) "Financial assistance", an amount of money paid by the state of
70 Missouri to a qualified applicant under sections 173.1101 to 173.1107;

71 [(7)] (8) "Full-time student", an individual who is enrolled in and is
72 carrying a sufficient number of credit hours or their equivalent at an approved
73 private, [or] public, **or virtual** institution to secure the degree or certificate
74 toward which he or she is working in no more than the number of semesters or
75 their equivalent normally required by that institution in the program in which
76 the individual is enrolled. This definition shall be construed as the successor to
77 subdivision (7) of section 173.205 for purposes of eligibility requirements of other
78 financial assistance programs that refer to section 173.205.

173.1104. 1. An applicant shall be eligible for initial or renewed financial

2 assistance only if, at the time of application and throughout the period during
3 which the applicant is receiving such assistance, the applicant:

- 4 (1) Is a citizen or a permanent resident of the United States;
- 5 (2) Is a resident of the state of Missouri, as determined by reference to
6 standards promulgated by the coordinating board;
- 7 (3) Is enrolled, or has been accepted for enrollment, as a full-time
8 undergraduate student in an approved private, [or] public, **or virtual**
9 institution; and
- 10 (4) Is not enrolled or does not intend to use the award to enroll in a course
11 of study leading to a degree in theology or divinity.

12 2. If an applicant is found guilty of or pleads guilty to any criminal
13 offense during the period of time in which the applicant is receiving financial
14 assistance, such applicant shall not be eligible for renewal of such assistance,
15 provided such offense would disqualify the applicant from receiving federal
16 student aid under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

17 3. Financial assistance shall be allotted for one academic year, but a
18 recipient shall be eligible for renewed assistance until he or she has obtained a
19 baccalaureate degree, provided such financial assistance shall not exceed a total
20 of ten semesters or fifteen quarters or their equivalent. Standards of eligibility
21 for renewed assistance shall be the same as for an initial award of financial
22 assistance, except that for renewal, an applicant shall demonstrate a grade-point
23 average of two and five-tenths on a four-point scale, or the equivalent on another
24 scale. This subsection shall be construed as the successor to section 173.215 for
25 purposes of eligibility requirements of other financial assistance programs that
26 refer to section 173.215.

173.1105. 1. An applicant who is an undergraduate postsecondary
2 student at an approved private, [or] public, **or virtual** institution and who meets
3 the other eligibility criteria shall be eligible for financial assistance, with a
4 minimum and maximum award amount as follows:

- 5 (1) For academic years 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, and 2013-14:
 - 6 (a) One thousand dollars maximum and three hundred dollars minimum
7 for students attending institutions classified as part of the public two-year sector;
 - 8 (b) Two thousand one hundred fifty dollars maximum and one thousand
9 dollars minimum for students attending institutions classified as part of the
10 public four-year sector, including State Technical College of Missouri; and
 - 11 (c) Four thousand six hundred dollars maximum and two thousand dollars

12 minimum for students attending approved private institutions;

13 (2) For the 2014-15 academic year and subsequent years:

14 (a) One thousand three hundred dollars maximum and three hundred
15 dollars minimum for students attending institutions classified as part of the
16 public two-year sector; and

17 (b) Two thousand eight hundred fifty dollars maximum and one thousand
18 five hundred dollars minimum for students attending institutions classified as
19 part of the public four-year sector, including State Technical College of Missouri[,
20 or]; approved private institutions; **or approved virtual institutions.**

21 2. All students with an expected family contribution of twelve thousand
22 dollars or less shall receive at least the minimum award amount for his or her
23 institution. Maximum award amounts for an eligible student with an expected
24 family contribution above seven thousand dollars shall be reduced by ten percent
25 of the maximum expected family contribution for his or her increment group. Any
26 award amount shall be reduced by the amount of a student's payment from the
27 A+ schools program or any successor program to it. For purposes of this
28 subsection, the term "increment group" shall mean a group organized by expected
29 family contribution in five hundred dollar increments into which all eligible
30 students shall be placed.

31 3. If appropriated funds are insufficient to fund the program as described,
32 the maximum award shall be reduced across all sectors by the percentage of the
33 shortfall. If appropriated funds exceed the amount necessary to fund the
34 program, the additional funds shall be used to increase the number of recipients
35 by raising the cutoff for the expected family contribution rather than by
36 increasing the size of the award.

37 4. Every three years, beginning with academic year 2009-10, the award
38 amount may be adjusted to increase no more than the Consumer Price Index for
39 All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), 1982-1984 = 100, not seasonally adjusted, as
40 defined and officially recorded by the United States Department of Labor, or its
41 successor agency, for the previous academic year. The coordinating board shall
42 prepare a report prior to the legislative session for use of the general assembly
43 and the governor in determining budget requests which shall include the amount
44 of funds necessary to maintain full funding of the program based on the baseline
45 established for the program upon the effective date of sections 173.1101 to
46 173.1107. Any increase in the award amount shall not become effective unless
47 an increase in the amount of money appropriated to the program necessary to

48 cover the increase in award amount is passed by the general assembly.

173.1107. A recipient of financial assistance may transfer from one
2 approved public [or], private, **or virtual** institution to another without losing
3 eligibility for assistance under sections 173.1101 to 173.1107, but the coordinating
4 board shall make any necessary adjustments in the amount of the award. If a
5 recipient of financial assistance at any time is entitled to a refund of any tuition,
6 fees, or other charges under the rules and regulations of the institution in which
7 he or she is enrolled, the institution shall pay the portion of the refund which
8 may be attributed to the state grant to the coordinating board. The coordinating
9 board will use these refunds to make additional awards under the provisions of
10 sections 173.1101 to 173.1107.

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Bill

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