

## SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 81

AN ACT

To amend chapter 163, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to parental choice in educational opportunities.

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

Section A. Chapter 163, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 163.420, to read as follows:

163.420. 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, each parent or guardian of a child between the ages of seven years and the compulsory attendance age for the district, as defined in section 167.031, in which the parent or guardian resides, shall be afforded the opportunity at the time of enrollment to direct that state aid under this chapter that would be used to educate the student at a school within the district of residence shall be remitted to a qualified school of the parent or guardian's choice, if the parent or guardian chooses a school outside of the district of residence. A parent or guardian may choose to enroll their student in a different school within the school district of residence. The state treasurer shall create and provide to each school district a form for use by a parent or guardian at the time of enrollment to indicate the parent or guardian's choice as to the qualified school their student will attend for that school year.

2. The school district shall transmit any forms received, as provided in subsection 1 of this section, to the state treasurer. The school district shall also notify

the department of elementary and secondary education within seven days of the parent submitting the form to the school.

3. Upon receipt of the form, the state treasurer shall remit, within thirty days, state aid under this chapter that would have been remitted to the school district of residence for the purpose of educating the student to the qualified school chosen by the parent or guardian if the parent or guardian chooses a school outside of the school district of residence.

4. The school district shall notify the department of elementary and secondary education, within seven days of the parent or guardian submitting the form, that the student shall no longer be attending a school within the district, if applicable. If the student enrolls in a qualified school, other than a public school located in the same school district of residence, the student shall not be counted in the resident school district's weighted average daily attendance as a resident student for purposes of determining state and federal aid for the student's resident school district.

5. As used in this section, the term "qualified school" shall include any of the following entities that is incorporated in Missouri and that does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin:

(1) A charter school as defined in section 160.400;

(2) A private school, which shall mean a school that is not part of the public school system of the state of Missouri and that charges tuition for the rendering of elementary and secondary educational services;

(3) A public school as defined in section 160.011; or

(4) A public or private virtual school.

6. As used in this section, the term "state aid" shall mean the lesser of the state adequacy target for the student or the amount of tuition at the qualified school.