

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE BILL NO. 963

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SHOEMYER.

Read 1st time February 18, 2010, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

5144S.011

## AN ACT

To repeal section 640.240, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the minority and underrepresented environmental literacy program.

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

Section A. Section 640.240, RSMo, is repealed and one new section  
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 173.240, to read as follows:

173.240. 1. **There is hereby established within the department of  
2 higher education a "Minority and Underrepresented Environmental  
3 Literacy Program". The department of higher education, hereafter  
4 referred to as the department, may award scholarships to minority and  
5 underrepresented students to pursue environmentally related courses  
6 of study. The scholarships shall be administered by the department  
7 recruitment and retention program under the supervision of the  
8 minority environmental literacy advisory committee established under  
9 this section. Those ethnic groups which are most severely  
10 underrepresented, as determined by data gathered and maintained by  
11 the National Academy of Sciences, shall receive priority in annual  
12 selection.**

13 2. **For the purpose of increasing the number of minority and  
14 underrepresented students, as determined by the National Academy of  
15 Sciences, who are enrolled in environmentally related courses of study,  
16 there is hereby created a "Recruitment and Retention Scholarship  
17 Fund". Any unexpended balance in the recruitment and retention  
18 scholarship fund shall not be subject to biennial transfer under the  
19 provisions of section 33.080. All interest earned on funds in the**

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

20 recruitment and retention scholarship fund shall accrue to the fund.

21           3. The general assembly may appropriate funds to the  
22 department for the purpose of funding scholarships as authorized by  
23 this section. Such funds shall be from general revenue, special fees  
24 administered by the department, federal funding sources, gifts or  
25 donations, provided that such funds may be used for this purpose. All  
26 sums received for this purpose shall be placed in the state treasury and  
27 credited to the recruitment and retention scholarship fund.

28           4. The department shall accept, receive and administer grants or  
29 other funds, gifts or donations from the public and individuals,  
30 including the federal government, for the purpose of funding  
31 scholarships under this section. Such funds shall be deposited in the  
32 recruitment and retention scholarship fund.

33           5. The department shall promulgate rules to administer the  
34 scholarship program, which shall include qualifications, application  
35 forms, annual filing deadlines, and scholarship amounts.

36           6. The scholarship program shall be directed toward students in  
37 the following areas of study:

38           (1) Engineering students pursuing undergraduate and graduate  
39 degrees in civil, chemical, mechanical, or agricultural engineering;

40           (2) Environmental sciences students pursuing undergraduate and  
41 graduate degrees in geology, biology, wildlife management, planning,  
42 natural resources, or a closely related course of study;

43           (3) Chemistry students pursuing undergraduate and graduate  
44 degrees in the field of environmental chemistry; and

45           (4) Law enforcement students pursuing undergraduate and  
46 graduate degrees in environmental law enforcement.

47           7. There is hereby created a "Minority Environmental Literacy  
48 Advisory Committee", hereafter referred to as the committee, to be  
49 comprised of:

50           (1) The commissioner of higher education or the commissioner's  
51 designee, who will serve as chairperson of the committee;

52           (2) Three representatives of universities and colleges. The  
53 university and college representatives shall each be appointed by the  
54 affirmative action office of the respective institution;

55           (3) The director of the department of natural resources or the  
56 director's designee;

57           **(4) Five at-large members appointed by the governor, with the**  
58 **advice and consent of the senate, who shall be high school teachers and**  
59 **college professors and who shall be selected to represent the various**  
60 **regions of the state;**

61           **(5) The state affirmative action officer.**

62           **8. The committee shall meet at least annually, at a time and**  
63 **place to be determined by the chairperson, to select students to receive**  
64 **scholarships from applications filed with the department retention and**  
65 **recruitment program. The members appointed by the governor shall be**  
66 **reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses.**

67           **9. Colleges and universities described in this section shall**  
68 **include public community colleges.**

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2 of environmental quality a "Minority and Underrepresented  
3 Environmental Literacy Program". The department of natural  
4 resources, hereafter referred to as the department, may award  
5 scholarships to minority and underrepresented students to pursue  
6 environmentally related courses of study. The scholarships shall  
7 be administered by the division of environmental quality  
8 recruitment and retention program under the supervision of the  
9 minority environmental literacy advisory committee established  
10 under this section. Those ethnic groups which are most severely  
11 underrepresented, as determined by data gathered and maintained  
12 by the National Academy of Sciences, shall receive priority in  
13 annual selection.

14           2. For the purpose of increasing the number of minority and  
15 underrepresented students, as determined by the National  
16 Academy of Sciences, who are enrolled in environmentally related  
17 courses of study, there is hereby created a "Recruitment and  
18 Retention Scholarship Fund". Any unexpended balance in the  
19 recruitment and retention scholarship fund shall not be subject to  
20 biennial transfer pursuant to the provisions of section 33.080,  
21 RSMo. All interest earned on funds in the recruitment and  
22 retention scholarship fund shall accrue to the fund.

23           3. The general assembly may appropriate funds to the  
24 department for the purpose of funding scholarships as authorized

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26 fees administered by the department, federal funding sources, gifts  
27 or donations, provided that such funds may be used for this  
28 purpose. All sums received for this purpose shall be placed in the  
29 state treasury and credited to the recruitment and retention  
30 scholarship fund.

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32 grants or other funds, gifts or donations from the public and  
33 individuals, including the federal government, for the purpose of  
34 funding scholarships under this section. Such funds shall be  
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49 graduate degrees in the field of environmental chemistry; and

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51 graduate degrees in environmental law enforcement.

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71 environmental quality retention and recruitment program. The  
72 members appointed by the governor shall be reimbursed for their  
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Bill

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